

Summer Music Theory Course



Dates: Monday 4th August – Thursday 7th August 2025

Location: Bishop Wood School, Frogmore St, Tring.

Grades 1-2: 10am-12pm

Suitable for ages 7-10, for children who have already begun learning an instrument, based around the Grade 1 and 2 ABRSM Theory syllabus.

This will include understanding of basic note values, clefs, pitch, rests, time signatures, scales and key signatures keys of C, G, D and F major, tonic triads, numbered intervals, performance directions and articulation marks.

Grade 5: 1 – 3pm

Covering the Grade 5 ABRSM syllabus for students either currently working towards the exam or planning to, and suitable for ages 11-16 who are at least Grade 4 standard on their instrument.

This will include irregular time signatures, rewriting in simple and compound time, tenor clef, transposition, keys and scales, intervals, chords, terms signs and instruments, and music in context.

Cost of the 4 day course: £80

Required materials: Discovering Music Theory Grades 1 & 2 (ABRSM *both* books) *or* Discovering Music Theory Grade 5 (ABRSM), pencils, rubber, manuscript paper.

**To sign up, or for any enquiries please email shaunlyon@btinternet.com
or text/call 07964 066075.**

Please read the following for common Q&As:

What is music theory?

Music theory is the study of the language of music, involving an understanding of the processes of music and crucially, how they are written down, or *notated*.

Is music theory important in learning an instrument?

Absolutely essential. Composers use written scores to convey their musical ideas and without understanding the information contained within the score it is impossible to play the music as the composer intended.

I'm learning to play an instrument – how much music theory do I need to do?

Nobody learns to play an instrument in order to learn music theory! Actually *making* music is of course the most important thing. Music theory though, is an essential component of playing an instrument. The greater one's understanding of music theory the far higher the chances of playing well, with musical understanding.

I passed Grade 5 on my instrument. Can I take Grade 6 now?

If the exam board is the preeminent, globally respected one, ABRSM (the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) then you cannot take Grade 6 on your instrument until you have passed Grade 5 theory.

This requirement is entirely justified, as the increasingly sophisticated nature of music at Grade 6 and beyond demands an ever greater understanding of musical processes and language.

What does this Summer Theory Course consist of?

This course will cater for 2 different levels of student – those who are relatively new to playing an instrument and those more experienced pupils who are either already working towards Grade 5 theory or would like to begin to do so.

Over 4 days, students will build a secure theory foundation that will be of great assistance in all their future music-making and development. Additionally, students will learn about some of the basic processes of how music works with some practical application.

Who is running the Course?

My name is Shaun Lyon. I am a pianist and composer, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, studying both those disciplines there before gaining a post-graduate M.A in Music Performance at City, London University. I have over thirty years' experience teaching piano, music theory and composition to pupils aged 6 to 75 in a wide variety of settings, encompassing state and independent schools as well as private practice, with a long pedigree of excellent exam results.

I hold a Current, Enhanced DBS Certificate.