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Intro To Music Theory For The Traditional Musician

by Jim Miller

Intro to
Music Theory
for the
Traditional Musician
by
Jim Miller
www.jimmillerdulcimer.com

Jim Miller's Intro To Music Theory For The Traditional Musician explains music theory basics in plain, easy-to-understand language, for players of any instrument.

Topics include intervals, scales, chords and modes, and the understanding it gives you will make playing by ear easier.

16 pages. Formerly titled Intro To Music Theory For The Harmonically Challenged.

16 pages

INSIDE THE BOOK

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Triads Built on Scale Tones

A triad is two stacked 3rds. A triad chord can be built on each note of a major scale. This creates a series of chords that are fundamental to the understanding of how scales, and therefore melody, relate to chords. This is the real "meat" of music theory. If you consider that the notes (on the beat) of a melody are contained in the accompanying chord to that melody, it becomes apparent that the two (melody and chords) are interdependent. Therefore, the chord structure of a tune must contain the melody notes (on the beat) that are contained in the accompanying chord. Conversely, the melody notes (on the beat) must be contained in the accompanying chord. This is very useful when playing by ear; since by knowing the chords, you can figure out the melody, and knowing the melody will help you figure out the chords.

In the key of C these triads are:

I	ii	iii	IV	V	vi	vii°
C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	B°
g	a	b	c	d	e	f
e	f	g	a	b	c	d
c	d	e	f	g	a	b
Do	Re	Mi	Fa	Sol	La	Ti

About the Author

Jim Miller has been playing and performing traditional music for the past 40 years. An accomplished instrument builder and teacher, he has taught workshops at numerous festivals as well as won many awards for his musicianship. For twenty years, Jim was the owner of the Hampton Music Shop, in Hampton, Tennessee, where he handcrafted over 750 hammered dulcimers. He has played with Celtic, Bluegrass, Swing, Blues and Old Time bands, and has done session work on many recordings. In addition to being an accomplished performer and workshop leader, Jim also is an enthusiastic jam facilitator who likes to get everyone involved. He plays guitar, banjo, octave mandolin, bass, steel drum, percussion, autoharp, mandocello, hammered and mountain dulcimers as well as his own off-the-wall musical inventions, which are always entertaining. Jim holds a Master's degree in Elementary Education and has completed the course work for certification in music education. He recently retired from teaching 4th grade at Cloudland Elementary School in Roan Mountain, Tennessee, where he still leads an after school traditional string band program. He teaches dulcimer, mandolin, ukulele, and autoharp in the Bluegrass, Old Time, and Country Music program at East Tennessee State University and plays mandocello in the ETSU mandolin orchestra.

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