

## Learn your Music Theory



In order to become a confident, well-rounded musician, every music student must not only learn the basic concepts of music reading, technique, and tone production, but it's important to pick up the basic concepts of music theory along the way as well. Music students, a great way to dive right in is to start mastering the 12 major scales and their corresponding diatonic chord progressions.

**Scales:** If you haven't already, start becoming proficient at playing major scales on your instrument. After you've mastered each scale of the 12 major

keys, move on to their relative natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales. It never hurts to have a few different forms of the pentatonic scale under your belt as well; this is especially true for guitarists.

**Chords in a Key:** To expand upon your scale knowledge, it's a good idea to next understand how scales are organized to create chords. A great way to get started is to pick a major key and be able to name and perform each diatonic chord in that key. Once you become familiar with the 7 diatonic chords in each of the 12 major keys, you will have the knowledge you need to understand how the vast majority of music is constructed.

**Put it all Together:** The best way to make sense of all this music theory knowledge is to apply it on your instrument. Get started choosing one or two different keys to practice at the beginning of each practice session. For example, choose the key of G, play a G major scale as a quick warm-up, and review the 7 diatonic chords of G, Am, Bm, C, D, Em, and F#dim.

After consistent & dedicated practice, you'll have all 12 major keys mastered, and you'll be well on your way to becoming a certified music theory whiz. -Jake Ramirez, *SAMA Guitar Instructor*

## Student of the Month

"Esther is an absolutely amazing pianist, a true virtuoso. She has mastered so many skills and such a large amount of repertoire in a relatively short amount of time. She's any piano teacher's dream pupil: motivated, talented and consistent.

Anyone who has heard her perform knows that there is virtually nothing she is not capable of accomplishing. Hurray, Esther!"

-Mark Campbell, *SAMA Piano Instructor*



## UPCOMING EVENTS:



SAMA Ensemble Auditions  
6:05pm - 7:05pm  
Held by Jake Ramirez



Violin Lessons Begin  
w/ Shane Duyvené de Wit



Mark Campbell's Birthday



Studio Holiday



Back-to-School Recital  
@ RBC Sheet Music



Back-to-School Recital  
@ LOL Comedy Club

Social



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