Music Explorations supporting document

| Elements | Contemporary theory |
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| Rhythm  | * Notes and rests: whole note to 1/16 note (semibreve to semiquavers), dots and ties, tuplets
* Simple meter, e.g. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
* Irregular meter, e.g. 5/4, 7/8
* Compound meter, e.g. 6/8, 9/8, 12/8
* Understanding of beat groupings for notes and rests
* Syncopation and accents
* Tempo and pulse
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| Pitch — melody/harmony | * Treble and bass clefs
* Major and minor scales (harmonic, natural, melodic), blues scale, pentatonic scale and modes
* Diatonic intervals
* Diatonic triads in root position
* Chords to the 7th, 9th, major, minor, dominant, half-diminished, and diminished
* Altered 5 (dominant) chords, e.g. b9, #5
* Ostinato/riff
* Sus2 and sus4 chords
* Melody construction and shaping
* Matching appropriate triads to a melody
* Standard chord progressions, such as: 1-4-5 (and variants), 1-5-6-4 (and variants), 1-b7-4, 1-4-7-3-6-2-5-1 (fourth cycle and variants), 1-5-6-3-4-1-4-5 (Pachelbel Canon, rhythm changes)
* Transposing instruments, e.g. Bb and Eb
* Simple modulations or changes of key (typical of popular music only, e.g. up a semitone, or modulation to closely related keys)
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| Dynamics and expression | * Dynamic shaping and associated markings (symbols)
* Expressive articulation and associated markings (symbols)
* Tempo indications, e.g. quarter note = 120 BPM
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| Form and structure | * Binary
* Ternary
* Song form, e.g. intro, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, bridge
* Call and response
* 12 and 16 bar blues
* Standard form and notation symbols, e.g. repeats, 1st and 2nd time endings, coda
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| Timbre | * Pitched and unpitched instruments (instrument families)
* Tone colour of individual instruments and instrumental combinations (including voices and FX processing)
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| Texture | * Layering and blending of musical lines (melodic and rhythmic)
* Varied combinations of solo and group layering
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