

# *Tree of Life School*

*"Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her."*

*Proverbs 3:18*

## *Beautiful Music* Course Outline

## Procedure

### Working through the course:

Read pages 4-6 of your text, *Beautiful Music Book I* as preparation to beginning the course. Put together your notebook as outlined in your text.

Each lesson will take approximately two hours. Schedule two one-hour slots per week, and aim to complete one lesson per week during those two hours. If you are completing this course in one fifteen-week semester, aim for two lessons (four hours) per week.

### Submission of assignments:

The assignments should be completed every four or five lessons (once a month, if doing weekly lessons). Some assignments have several choices; you only need choose **one** of these assignments, thus completing eight major assignments over the course of the year. For consistency, one typed page (single-spaced) is equal to approximately 500-600 words. All essays should have a title page and a bibliography (be sure to consult a reference guide such as *Writer's Inc.* for proper bibliographic format).

Formal (research) essays should follow the format as laid out by *Tree of Life* standards.

*N.B.* – One of the assignments for Assignment Eight involves a discussion of a CD. If you choose to do this assignment, be sure to order your CD in plenty of advance!

## Evaluation

This course requires the submission of eight of the following assignments and five listening logs. For the listening logs, you will be completing many throughout the course. Choose five as the sample of your work and submit them.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows.

Written assignments:  $8 \times 10\% = 80\%$

Listening logs:  $5 \times 4\% = 20\%$

## Assignments

### Assignment One: Foundations of Music

- You have likely heard arguments about the morality of music, whether music (either certain types like rock music or just music itself) can be good or evil, or is morally neutral and dependant on the lyrics. Fundamentally, music is a gift from God, and like all of God's gifts, can be used for good or evil. Review your definitions for the elements of music that you researched in Lesson One. Consider the parallel between the elements of music and DNA, or human genetic material. God created the 'genomes', the elements of music, but it is man who puts it together. Man is fallen; therefore music created by man is fallen. Like all of God's gifts, however, music looks forward to the restoration of its created purpose, and eventual consummation in heaven. Is music morally neutral (amoral) because of its fundamental elements, or can it have moral or immoral properties, because of man's fallen nature? How would a Christian approach music, either in listening, or in composing and performing? How would this differ from an unbeliever's approach? Using these thoughts as starting points, write a 1-2 page persuasive paper on your view of the morality of music.
- After finishing Lesson Two, you will have learned a little about the Psalms, and how they have been sung in the church through the ages. Write a metrical Psalm in contemporary English based on one of the psalm types. Your Psalm must have at least three verses of four lines each. Use material from Lesson Two to help you. If you are struggling with the poetry, look at other hymn texts or short poems for help.

### Assignment Two: The Orchestra

- By now, you should be in the midst of an in-depth study of each instrument in the modern-day orchestra. Your assignment is to choose one of your favourite instruments, and research its development. Find out when it was 'invented', and trace its development from as far back as you can find out up until its modern-day form. How/why did it go through its various changes? Do you find that developments were improvements? Why or why not? You will be able to find ample information in encyclopaedias, at the library, and on the internet. You can also find good starting material for most instruments in the booklet included with your "Instruments of the Orchestra" CD set. Include any interesting facts or trivia you find out about your instrument. Your report should be approximately 1-2 typed pages, plus pictures or illustrations. Include a cover page and a bibliography for your report.
- By now, you have had a brief introduction to the orchestra. You may have found that the conductor seems to be the most important member of the orchestra. Why do you suppose this is? In the past, many composers conducted their own works, and 'conductors' often performed at the same time! As compositions for orchestras became bigger by the early 1800s, it became necessary for one person (non-performer!) to conduct the whole orchestra, but this person was still often the composer of the work being performed. Near the beginning of the 1900s however, conducting became very specialized, and conductors became known for their interpretation of other people's compositions. Many of the most famous conductors are not composers, and some are not even musicians! Choose one of the following topics to research, and write a 1-2 page report on your findings. Include a cover page and a bibliography for your report.

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## ***Music Appreciation***

## Assignment Planning

Assignments 80%      Logs 20%

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