Music Theory Courses Online

The Music Theory Minute, http://www.musictheoryminute.com/, is a set of one-minute lessons demonstrated at the keyboard.   Each is given in a flash-player file that can be downloaded individually at no charge.   Good introduction for anyone who is at least modestly familiar with the keyboard.   It might be the opener to lead to a more thorough course.

Ricci Adams' *Theory Lessons* ($1.99) and *Tenuto* ($3.99), http://www.musictheory.net/.   Two applications downloadable from Apple for iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad, these could quite likely also be run on the desk- or lap-top computer too.   The *Tenuto* application offers exercises for the *Lessons* themselves.

Music Theory from 8notes.com, http://www.8notes.com/theory/, is a free program teaching basic to intermediate music theory, with 46 very clear lessons that use the printed staff with sound samples.   [The only deponent feature is its lack of illustrative examples actually drawn from the music literature; but, once a student understands the basic structures, he or she will be able to identify them when hearing them or encountering them in his or her own music.]   Recommended.

My Music Theory, http://www.mymusictheory.com/, offers a free program of theory lessons in 5 grades.   All the lessons, worksheets, exercises, and tests are available online, or they may be downloaded to print from PDF files (for a small fee).   They also offer an e-mail marking service, and academic support by e-mail for the composition work in Grade 5.   Well worth trying.

Music Theory On Line, http://www.music-theory.com/, is an interactive course with an online teacher, and one pays $139.00 when registering.

Easy Music Theory with Gary Ewer, http://www.easymusictheory.com/, is a program for basic music theory, explained with video tutorials.   It is available in a digital download for $99.95, or a physical version for $159.95.

Theory in a Box, http://www.theoryinabox.org/solo/general.php, is an online program for basic and intermediate music theory.   It can be used for 1, 2, or 3 students, with the cost for one $99, two $179, three $249.   It comes with help via online chat, e-mail, or phone; and, as paid online programs go, it seems to be a good bargain.

eMusic Theory, http://www.emusictheory.com/, is free for use online, or one can download the program itself for use offline, for a cost of $12.00.   Either way requires updated Java software (free online).   All drills are downloadable, or come with the offline software.   The drills seem to be quite good.   Special drills called "concepts" help the student to connect what he or she has learned with keys on the piano, or fingerings on guitar or the various stringed instruments.   Excellent for instrumentalists.

Sites Combining Music Theory & History Courses Online

Dolmetsch.com course by Dr. Brian Blood.   http://www.dolmetsch.com/theoryintro.htm.   This is a comprehensive history and theory course for the precocious high school or early college student.   It is free of charge, best used with some degree of music teacher guidance, but usable by an advanced student alone.   With its extensive scope, the teacher or student can touch on the basics of each area, scan across some of the more detailed information, and move on to the next basic topic.

Music Notes , http://library.thinkquest.org/15413/, offers a comprehensive online learning experience for music theory, history, and more.   Its theory section is divided into Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels; it is a "project by students for students," and seems to be free of charge.   Like many other history programs, that part is divided by historical period.   Other offerings include sessions on various Musical Styles, and one-page biographies on selected Composers.

Coast Learning Service by Coastline Community College, Fountain Valley CA, http://www.coastlearning.org/course-catalog/by-discipline.html, offers a number good high-school-level courses (move to *Music* at this web address to see all courses available).   Besides Music Appreciation, teaching units are also available for Music Fundamentals, an Introduction to Jazz, a History of Rock & Roll, and World Music – as well as units for "music majors" in Music Theory and Musicianship.

Music History Courses Online

Hyper Music, http://www.hypermusic.ca/, offers online courses in the History of Classical Music, of Jazz Music, and of Musical Instruments.   The courses are basic enough that they could easily be used by middle-school or junior-high aged student.   The site also has a link for activities to use with young children (K-3).   Well worth exploring.

The Classical Net offers a fine *Master Composer Index*, http://www.classical.net/music/composer/masterindex.php, which features informative, 1-page articles on a vast number of composers.   Quite useful as a supplemental reference for any study of music history.

The Oxford History of Western Music by Richard Taruskin, http://www.oxfordwesternmusic.com/, is a subscription service program.   One may use it on a free, 30-day trial basis, but their pricing varies according to the "institutional situation," so it would be best to contact their customer service representative to see how much they'd charge in a home schooling situation.   Since its Oxford University Press, it's likely quite good for a music history buff of high school age or higher.

Music Appreciation Courses Online

From Pianolessons4children.com, http://www.pianolessons4children.com/composers/, one can download some "Famous Composers" lessons for middle to upper grade school children, featuring a selected nine composers representing various periods and styles.   This might be a good supplement for a young person's music lessons.

W.W. Norton & Co. has long been a publisher of respected music text books.   Their Music Appreciation volume is *The Enjoyment of Music*, and one can purchase it in an online version, along with a downloadable companion file, *Essential Listening Edition*.   The local Norton representative is Leah Koontz; you may call her at 724-953-7935 or e-mail her at lkoontz@wwnorton.com, in order to discuss costs and a registration code for use online.