

# **Notes for Instructors**

## **Using MacGAMUT with**

### ***Tonal Harmony***

*Tonal Harmony*, Seventh Edition  
by Stefan Kostka, Dorothy Payne, and Byron Almén  
Published by McGraw-Hill

*Note:* Thanks to Dr. Benjamin Whitcomb, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, for his helpful contributions to this project.

Included in the **MacGAMUT Instructor Materials** you installed are customized Presets and a Harmonic Dictation library designed specifically to complement the *Tonal Harmony* curriculum. Please keep in mind that these textbook-specific presets are not “set in stone,” but may be used as a starting point for further customization. You may choose to use the Set Params application to alter these presets as you see fit in order to coordinate them better with your own syllabus and teaching style.

#### **Files to use with *Tonal Harmony***

Tonal Harmony Presets MG6.mgp

MGRhythms 6.mgr (uses the “original” MacGAMUT Rhythmic Dictation library)

MGMelodies 6.mgm (uses the “original” MacGAMUT Melodic Dictation library)

THProgressions 6.mgh (a custom file combining levels from two Harmonic Dictation libraries:  
Prep Progressions 6.mgh and MGProgressions 6.mgh.

You will find all these files in the Tonal Harmony Files folder inside the MacGAMUT Presets & Libraries folder installed in your MacGAMUT Instructor Folder in your computer’s Documents folder. Tonal Harmony Presets reflects the order of MacGAMUT materials outlined in the Tonal Harmony & MacGAMUT Coordination spreadsheet (which can be printed on legal-sized paper) and the MacGAMUT Assignments Summary document included in the Tonal Harmony Files folder.

**Week One Activities:** During the first week of the course, your students should spend a bit of time familiarizing themselves with MacGAMUT software through the following assignment:

1. View MacGAMUT Videos “Managing Your startMG6.mgs File” and “Exploring the Melodic Dictation Window.”
2. In Practice Mode, spend five minutes on each of the twelve sections, completing at least one exercise in each section.
3. Submit your current startMG6.mgs file to your instructor via email.

**Order of Levels:** See MacGAMUT Assignments Summary (included in the Tonal Harmony Files folder).

**Providing the new presets and library for your students:** If your students will be using MacGAMUT on music department computers, you can copy the Tonal Harmony Presets file and the THProgressions 6.mgh Harmonic Dictation library (or your customized version of the presets and library files) onto the computers' hard drives. When your students use MacGAMUT on a lab computer, they can install your new presets file in their individual **startMG6.mgs** files. If they will be using these files on their own computers, each student should copy the Tonal Harmony Presets file and the THProgressions 6.mgh files into the MacGAMUT Work Folder in the Documents folder on his or her own computer where the student's individual **startMG6.mgs** file should already be saved.

*Note:* If your students will be using MacGAMUT on any computers that do not already have the THProgressions 6.mgh library file copied onto them, they will need to copy this library from the lab computer onto removable media they can carry away with them (the "original" Rhythmic and Melodic libraries required for these special presets are part of the regular MacGAMUT install). In most cases, it will be handiest for students to include this Harmonic Dictation library on the same removable media they keep their start file on. They will then be ready to use MacGAMUT anywhere on any Windows or Macintosh computer with the special Tonal Harmony Presets and the prescribed libraries.

Alternatively, you may make these files available for download from a website, or you may choose to send these files to your students as an e-mail attachment they can install in their individual **startMG6.mgs** files on their own computers. Please note that any MacGAMUT files that travel over the Internet should be in compressed format (.zip "zipped" files). First, put both the presets and THProgressions library files *into one folder*. Then,

- *in Windows:* Right-click on the folder. Choose Send To, and then choose Compressed (zipped) Folder.
- *on Macintosh:* Click on the folder to highlight the name of the folder. Then choose Compress (or Create Archive of) [your folder's name] from the **File** menu.

If you're very brave, you can try sending your files "straight up" with no compression, but don't count on the files coming through in good shape.

**Installing the new presets and library:** Whether your students are installing presets from a lab computer, from a folder they have downloaded, or from a folder you have sent them as an e-mail attachment, they should: 1) start MacGAMUT; 2) click on the **CHANGE PRESETS** button on the screen where they verify their student information; 3) select the appropriate presets file from a standard file dialog (students may need to switch drives or folders to locate the file, depending on where it has been saved); and 4) confirm that they do indeed want to install these new presets. MacGAMUT will then install the new presets, saving the Tonal Harmony settings as an integral part of the individual student's **startMG6.mgs** file.

*Note:* If the new presets and library files are in the same folder, MacGAMUT can locate the library file(s) without any additional effort on the student's part. Otherwise, MacGAMUT will ask students to locate the THProgressions 6.mgh library file (or other custom library files) the first time they use the program with the new presets.

### **Implementing these materials**

We have provided just one of many possible ways to coordinate MacGAMUT with Tonal Harmony, covering all of Tonal Harmony and all of MacGAMUT over two years. In this

outline, the MacGAMUT Written and Keyboard drills keep pace with the Tonal Harmony materials, including giving students practice in spelling and voicing individual 4-voice Chords as they begin partwriting. As is typical in theory and aural-training courses, however, the aural-training assignments lag behind so that students will have time to master theory fundamentals and concepts before they are expected to master the corresponding aural-training drill. You will also notice that the second year of MacGAMUT work begins with some Review levels. In some cases, the students begin by simply repeating the last level completed the year before (in Aural Intervals, for example), while in Melodic Dictation, two levels of somewhat longer melodies are saved for the beginning of the second year.

If your courses proceed more quickly or more slowly, or if you find that the students are falling behind in their MacGAMUT assignments even though they are spending a reasonable amount of time and effort working on MacGAMUT, the pacing of the materials can easily be adjusted. In addition, feel free to omit (or add or repeat) MacGAMUT levels or to change any of the many options that can be set using the MacGAMUT Set Params program. (The Using Set Params video shows you step-by-step how to customize MacGAMUT for your courses and your students. For more detailed info about exactly what settings you can change, see the “Customizing the MacGAMUT Program” section in the **Instructor Guide**.) You can also omit an entire category of drills if you wish. For example, if your course does not include playing Intervals, Scales, or Chords on the keyboard, then you would probably choose not to assign any of the Keyboard drill levels.

As noted above, this outline assumes you will be covering all of Tonal Harmony and all of MacGAMUT in two years, spending just the first half of the first semester reviewing basic Intervals, Scales, and Chords, and beginning partwriting in the second half of the first semester. If, however, your students need more review, or are learning basic musical concepts in depth for the first time, you may need to spend the entire first semester focusing on Intervals, Scales, and Chords, so your students will be better prepared to begin partwriting in the second semester. The Tonal Harmony & MacGAMUT Coordination spreadsheet is split into sections within semesters, with small groups of Tonal Harmony chapters matched with relevant MacGAMUT assignments, to make it easy for you to increase (or decrease) the time allowed for specific assignments. If, for instance, you do not venture beyond Tonal Harmony Chapter 4 in the first semester, you would also want to stretch out the MacGAMUT assignments to correspond to the slower Tonal Harmony pace by asking your students to complete only the Section 1 and Section 2 MacGAMUT assignments in that first semester.

It is quite possible that the order of materials presented in your aural-training courses does not exactly parallel your theory courses. For example, the MacGAMUT presets for Tonal Harmony delay work on Modes until they are introduced in Tonal Harmony (about three-quarters of the way through the sophomore year). If your students are using a sight singing book or other materials that require them to learn Modes earlier, you may want to include the MacGAMUT Modes levels earlier as well, perhaps near the beginning of the freshman year. Even if you use the MacGAMUT Modes levels during the freshman year, you may want to repeat the MacGAMUT Modes levels when they are covered in Tonal Harmony in the sophomore year.

If your theory and aural-training courses are taught by different instructors, it would be easiest for the students if you and your colleagues provided them with just one presets file that includes the specific settings for theory and the specific (and perhaps very different) settings for aural-training assignments. Once you and your colleagues have provided the students with the combined presets file, each student can use his/her own individual MacGAMUT start file to work on separate MacGAMUT assignments for the two courses. The Instructor Check Stats program allows you to select only the specific stats you want to view. That means the aural-training teacher never needs to look at the theory drill stats, and the theory teacher never needs to look at the aural-training stats, even though all the stats are kept in the same student file.

If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact MacGAMUT Tech Support at [TechSupport@macgamut.com](mailto:TechSupport@macgamut.com).