In this talk, I will discuss a course I piloted in Fall, 2008 for non-science majors on the mathematics of music. While there was no true textbook for this course, we loosely followed Leon Harkleroad’s text, ”The Math Behind the Music.” Through exploring musical topics including pitch, intervals, chords, alternate tunings of the keyboard and variations on musical themes, students with very a limited mathematical background were exposed to mathematical concepts ranging from exponents and logarithms to basic group theory.

I will discuss the successes and shortcomings of the first run of this course, providing examples of handouts and assignments to illustrate what worked well and what may need to be revised (or dropped altogether, as the case may be). As this was a first attempt, audience suggestions and feedback will be most welcome! (Received September 16, 2008)