

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

Musicianship Guide 2024-25

Learning an instrument is very individualized, depending on the type of music you want to play. This guide is a sampling of things you will encounter over time depending on your age and experience. Your teacher will work with you to choose the appropriate topics for practice & skills, performing opportunities and make suggestions for participation based on your musical goals. Parent involvement in the early years is highly recommended and beneficial for a young musician's musical development.

PRACTICE & SKILLS

HOW TO PRACTICE

- Developing A Practice Routine
- Setting Short And Long Term Goals
- Recording A Practice Session
- Mock Performance/Audition Prep
- Practicing With Accompaniment
- Setting Up An Appropriate Practice Space
- Ensemble Rehearsal
- Preparation for Graded Performance Programs

MUSICAL SKILLS

- Sound Production, Listening Technique,
- Sight Reading, Phrasing & Expression
- Rhythmic Awareness

MATERIALS

- Metronome, Tuner, Music Stand
- Music, Music Notebooks & Pencils
- Instrument Care

PERFORMING

PERFORMANCE + AUDITION

- Visualization & Mental Preparation
- Memorization Techniques
- Positive Mindset

STAGE PRESENCE

- Acknowledgement of the Audience
- Communication with Collaborators
- Enjoyment & Confidence In Performing

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

- Timely Attendance
- Ready With Your Instrument & Music
- Appropriate Performing Attire

BODY AWARENESS

- Posture
- Stamina
- Relaxation

PARTICIPATION

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- Masterclass & Feedback Sessions
- Recitals & Music Shares
- Community Events
- Studio Class

ENSEMBLES & CLASSES

- Instrumental Ensemble
- Vocal Ensemble
- Chamber Music
- Jazz Program

COLLABORATIONS

- Reading Session
- Warmup Session
- Audition Preparation
- Practice Challenge
- Listening Session
- Duets, Trios and Bands

Guitar Musicianship Guide

ACOUSTIC GUITAR, ELECTRIC GUITAR, ELECTRIC BASS, BANJO, UKULELE

From rock, pop, country, folk and blues to classical and jazz, students learn the relationship of the guitar to their body and how to properly coordinate their left and right hands. Students also learn how to properly care for and tune the guitar, pick melodies and strum chords. As students advance they begin to read and interpret standard notation and tablature as well as advanced chords and finger patterns. Students refine their tone quality, improve their sight-reading and learn how to improvise solos and build chords and patterns for any style of music. In addition to acoustic and electric guitar, our faculty teach students on a variety of guitar-like instruments, including ukulele, banjo and electric bass.

TECHNIQUE

- Posture & Holding the Guitar
- Coordination of Left and Right Hands
- Fret hand clarity
 - Fretboard knowledge
 - Finger accuracy, independence and dexterity
 - Chords
 - Chord switching
 - Slurring Techniques
 - Muting strings
- Picking Hand Clarity
 - Finger Technique
 - Picking Technique
 - Strumming
- Instrument Care
- Tuning
- Harmonizing in position
- Extended Technique

EXPRESSION

- Dynamics & Articulation
- Tone quality
- Ornamentation
- Phrasing
- Soloing & Improvisation

READING & THEORY

- Scales (Partial List)
 - Chromatic
 - Major/minor
 - Modes
 - Pentatonic
- Building triads, inversions and Intervals
- Horizontal and Vertical Theory
- Patterns & Interval Shapes
- Tablature & Standard Notation
- Chord Symbols
- Ear Training

REPERTOIRE

- Method books (Partial List)
 - Hal Leonard
 - Berklee William Leavitt
 - Julio Segreras
 - Frederick Noad
 - Christopher Parkening
 - Mel Bay
 - FJH for young students
- Resources (Partial List)
 - Pumping Nylon
 - Christopher Parkening
 - Leo Brouwer
 - Mick Goodrick (RIP)
 - Segovia scales
 - Transcribing and Listening
 - Lead sheets and Chord Charts
- Genres (Partial List)
 - Pop, Jazz, Rock
 - Classical
 - Folk, Country