

# **Guitar Lesson Curriculum for Students of the Studio of Jeff Davis**

## **BEGINNING GUITAR LEVEL 1**

### Lesson Scope:

This 3-9 Month Plan is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences.

### Lesson Goals:

- To develop correct posture and hand position
- To identify the parts of the guitar
- To demonstrate the proper tuning of the guitar by pitch matching
- To understand the history and origin of the guitar
- To learn basic fundamentals of musical notation both with standard notation and Tablature
- To learn basic chords and single notes in first position
- To learn proper strumming, finger style and flat picking techniques and accompaniments
- To become aware of the role of the Guitar in today's music
- To participate in the evaluation of music and learning to play by ear
- To demonstrate basic notation skills; both with standard notation and Tablature

## **Summative Assessment Model Level 1 - Beginning Guitar**

At the completion of This Level, students will be able to:

1. perform using correct sitting posture and appropriate hand positions
2. play a sixteen measure melody composed with eighth notes at a moderate tempo using alternate picking
3. play on all six strings in first position

4. play melodies in the keys C, Am, G, Em, D, Bm, F and Dm
5. have a tonal range which extends to the A above the staff
6. play major, minor and dominant seventh chords in first position in the keys of C, G, D, A, Am, E, & Em
7. strum rhythms to include whole, half, quarter and eighth notes including simple syncopation
8. play power chords using roots on open sixth, fifth and fourth strings
9. read and understand symbols indicating up and down strokes
10. play arpeggios in a finger-picking style as an accompaniment
11. identify and use p-i-m-a
12. identify and name the parts of the guitar
13. identify basic musical symbols
14. tune the guitar by pitch matching

## **INTERMEDIATE GUITAR LEVEL II**

### Lesson Scope:

This 3-9 Month Plan is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Beginning Guitar syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an intermediate level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.

### Lesson Goals:

- To develop skills playing in fifth position in the keys of C, Am, F and Dm
- To demonstrate the ability to perform intermediate-level rhythms
- To perform melodic lines and scales in the keys of C, D, F, G, A and E
- To demonstrate and perform moveable bar chords based on the “E” and “A” chord forms
- To demonstrate the ability to perform intermediate-level right-hand techniques
- To demonstrate basic knowledge of moveable Scales patterns; Blues, Major and Minor Scales

- To participate in the evaluation of music and learning to play by ear
- To become aware of musical styles and composers and their correlation to world history
- To play along with a pre-recorded professional song
- To improvise a melody with to a prescribed rhythm and scale
- To memorize notes on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> strings on all 12 frets

## **Summative Assessment Model Level II-Intermediate Guitar**

At the completion of This Level, students will be able to::

1. play in Fifth Position in the keys of C, Am, F and Dm
2. play dotted quarter note rhythms and triplets
3. play melodic lines in the keys of C, Am, D, F, Dm, G, Em, A, & E
4. play in time signatures like 3/8, 6/8 and cut time
5. play major scales in the keys C, D, F, G, A & E
6. play chromatic scale in first position
7. play an extended range to high C
8. play moveable bar chords based on the “E” and “A” chord forms
9. play I IV V7 I in every key using moveable forms
10. play major, minor, major sevenths, dominant sevenths, minor sevenths and power chords in every key using moveable forms
11. play intermediate-level chord arpeggios using p-i-m-a
12. strum intermediate-level syncopated rhythms
13. demonstrate facilities in both flat picking and finger picking technique
14. Play along (while keeping tempo and rhythm) to a pre-recorded song
15. Improvise a basic melody to a prescribed rhythm and scale using movable scale patterns
16. play any note on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> string from memory

### **ADVANCED GUITAR LEVEL III**

Lesson Scope:

This 3-9 Month Plan is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Guitar Level II syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course

emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an advanced level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.

#### Lesson Goals:

- To develop skills playing in multiple playing positions
- To demonstrate the ability to perform advanced rhythms.
- To perform melodic lines and scales in the keys of E and Eb including relative minor keys
- To demonstrate advanced skills using moveable chord forms
- To demonstrate advanced right-hand techniques
- To recognize and interpret ornamentations such as slides, slurs, hammers, pull-offs and trills
- To recognize and interpret general articulations such as staccato, legato, accent marks and dynamics
- To participate in the evaluation of music and learning to play by ear
- To perform “swing” eighth notes in the tradition jazz swing style
- To perform intermediate-level solo guitar literature with two contrapuntal voices
- To demonstrate basic knowledge of the 5 techniques of guitar; bends, hammer-on’s, pull-offs, vibrato and slides.
- To evaluate career opportunities related to music and guitar

### **Summative Assessment Model Advanced Guitar Level III**

At the completion of This Level, students will be able to:

1. play in Second Position in keys of D and A
2. play in Seventh Position in the keys of D, A, G & Bm
3. play in the Fifth Position in the key of Bb
4. play an extended range to high E
5. play sixteenth notes
6. play dotted eighth note, sixteenth note rhythms

7. play all notes on each string to the twelfth fret
8. play "swing" eighth notes in the jazz style
9. play in duple, triple and complex meters such as 9/8 and 12/8
10. recognize and interpret general articulations such as staccato, legato, accent marks & dynamics
11. play major, natural minor, harmonic minor and melodic minor scales in every key
12. recognize and perform melodies in keys of Bb & Eb including relative minor keys
13. recognize and interpret ornamentations such as slides, slurs, hammers, pull-offs, trills, etc.
14. play two notes simultaneously using intervals of thirds, sixths and octaves
15. perform intermediate arpeggiated studies using p-i-m-a
16. extend skills using moveable bar chords
17. play augmented and diminished chords in every key using moveable shapes
18. play major sixth, minor sixth, ninths, thirteenths and suspended chords using moveable shapes
19. perform beginning-level solo guitar literature with two contrapuntal voices
20. play intermediate-level syncopated strums
21. demonstrate intermediate facilities in both flat picking and finger picking techniques

### **ADVANCED GUITAR LEVEL IV**

#### Lesson Scope:

This 3-6 Month Plan is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Level 3 Guitar syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an advanced level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.

#### Course Goals:

- To perform melodic lines in the keys up to and including four sharps and four flats including relative minor keys
- To demonstrate skills in playing in duple, triple and complex meters
- To perform dorian and mixolydian scales in every key using moveable shapes

- To perform advanced-level chords
- To demonstrate further advanced right-hand technique
- To improvise a solo over basic 12-bar blues and ii-V7-I chord progressions with no prescribed rhythm
- To develop skills playing with alternate tunings such as drop D tuning (sixth string tuned down to low D)
- To demonstrate advanced knowledge of the 5 techniques of guitar; bends, hammer-on's, pull-offs, vibrato and slides.
- To perform intermediate-level solo on the guitar and understand what scales are being used
- To demonstrate advanced knowledge of the 5 techniques of guitar; bends, hammer-on's, pull-offs, vibrato and slides with improvising guitar solos.
- To perform in a variety of ensembles and styles
- To evaluate career opportunities related to music and guitar.

### **Summative Assessment Model Advanced Guitar Level IV**

At the completion of This Level, students will be able to:

1. play an extended range to high G (first string, fifteenth fret)
2. play with drop D tuning (sixth string tune down to low D)
3. play dorian and mixolydian scales in every key using moveable shapes
4. improvise over basic 12-bar blues and ii-V7-I chord progressions
5. perform complex rhythms and syncopations
6. perform in complex duple and triple meters
7. play in the keys up to four sharps and four flats
8. perform intermediate-level solo guitar literature with three voices
9. perform advanced-level chords
10. perform advanced accompaniment techniques
11. perform in a variety of ensembles and styles
12. play selected studies of Carcassi, Carulli and Sor OR advanced pieces in other styles
13. play selected guitar solos from Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page etc.
14. create a chord melody arrangement from a given melody and chord symbols
15. demonstrate advanced facilities in both flat picking and finger picking techniques