

BEGINNING FOLK GUITAR SYLLABUS SEMESTER TWO

Goals:

1. To have students experience the physical and mental, emotional and spiritual benefits of music.
2. To realize and encourage the innate ability to respond and participate in the creating of music.
3. To explore and develop playing by ear, reading music and tablature, and performing.
4. To break down the learning process to simple do-able steps so that the learning experience is pleasurable and low stress.

Pre-requisites:

1. To be familiar with the full version of the major chords C, F, G7, D, A7, G, D7, A, and D.
2. Ability to hold and play with a flat pick.
3. Familiar with the right hand strum of Down and Down/Up.
4. Ability to tune the guitar either by ear or with an electronic tuner.
5. Understanding of the concept of I (tonic), IV (subdominant) and V7 (dominant) chords in a key and their relationship to transposition.
6. Ability to read and play the melody notes in first position on strings one, two, and three.
If students have any questions on whether they have acquired the skills to go on to Semester Two, please see one of the lead instructors. Student mentors are available before or after class, on request, to help students brush up on one or two of the skills listed above in which they may feel deficient. Semester One and Semester Two may be repeated as many times as one needs to feel comfortable going into the Intermediate classes.

Skills to be acquired in Semester Two:

1. Ability to play E, B7, C7, am, dm, and em,
2. Ability to play basses and alternate basses in finger style as well as with a flat or thumb pick.
3. Understanding where minor chords fit into a scale (i.e. I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii diminished)
4. Ability to read and play the melody notes in first position on strings four, five and six.
5. Ability to play duets in a melody/chord format or using a capo to play in two different keys.
6. Beginning ear training to hear chord changes

Materials Needed:

1. Guitar and carrying case
2. Guitar strap
3. Clip on guitar tuner (Snark recommended)
4. Flat pick and thumb pick
5. Capo (either elastic, clamp type or screw on)
6. Hoffman's Underground Guitar Book

Week One:

- a. Getting to know you. What is the musical background of each student? What do they hope to get out of this class? What is the background, experience, and particular expertise of the instructor?
- b. Warm ups

- c. Review major chords in key of C (C, F, G7), D (D, G, A7), G (G, C, D7), A (A, D, E7)
- d. Play song accompaniments
- e. Play melodies using strings one, two and three.
- f. Give overview of what students will be learning this semester. Answer student questions

Week Two:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach E and B7 chords
- c. Reinforce the concept of I, IV, V7 and how this can be used to transpose from one key to another (*See Forward p. V*)
- d. Play song accompaniments with E, A, and B7 chords

Week Three:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach melody notes on string four (D open, E fret 2, F, fret three, F# fret four) Use correct fingering (*See appendix p.*)
- c. Play duets with songs containing chords and melody notes on first four strings only. Divide up group, then exchange parts
- d. Play song accompaniments in key of C, G, A, D, or E, with I, IV, V7 chords only

Week Four:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Introduce concept of right hand strum in 4/4 of Bass, down, Alternate bass, down, using flat pick or thumb. (*See appendix p. for basses and alternate basses for chords C, D, D7, E, E7, G, G7 and A, A7*)
- c. Play song accompaniments in 4/4 using bass, down, alternate bass, down
- d. Play duets using songs with melody (first four strings only) and chords
- e. Practice string orchestra piece, line two, for Spring concert.

Week Five:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Introduce concept of right hand strum in 3/4 of bass, down, down, alternate bass, down, down (*See appendix p.*)
- c. Play song accompaniments in 3/4 time using bass, down, down, alternate bass, down, down
- d. Practice guitar orchestra piece, line two, for Spring concert
- e. Play song accompaniments in 4/4 time using bass, down, alternate bass, down

Week Six:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach notes on String five (A open, B fret two, C fret three) *See appendix p.*
- c. Play melodies with notes on first five strings only
- d. Practice guitar orchestra piece, line two, for Spring concert

- e. Play song accompaniments in key of E using alternating basses
- f. Play song accompaniments, student's choice of easy keys

Week Seven:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Introduce concept of thumb pick and play bass, down, alternate bass, down accompaniment with thumb pick.
- c. Teach Am and Dm chords (*See forward p.*)
- d. Teach pattern songs with C, Am, Dm, G7 (*See pages*)
- e. Play simple chord song accompaniments

Week Eight:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach melody notes on string six (E open, F fret one, F# fret two, G fret three)
- c. Read notes on bass strings and then play them
- d. Have students compose a line of bass notes using string four, five and six (simulating repetitive electric bass accompaniment)
- e. Play song accompaniments in 3/4 time using bass, down, down, alternate bass, down, down

Week Nine:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach the scale of C starting from String five, fret three up to String two, fret one (two octaves) c, d, e, f, g, a, b, c, d, e, f, g, a, b, c **or** do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do, re, me, fa, sol, la, ti, do. If students can do it forwards, can they also do it backwards?
- c. Teach Em Chord
- d. Play song accompaniments which include some minor chords
- e. Play song accompaniments with easy major chords

Week Ten:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Play simple duets with melody and chords dividing class so that half the class is playing melody and half the class the chords, then switch tasks.
- c. Give the class a song sheet of a two-chord song without the chords written in and ask students to individually use their ear to hear where the chord changes might be and mark them in. Let each student play their version of where they think the chord changes are. End with teacher playing his or her version of where the chord changes are.
- d. Practice reading chords from another guitarist's fretboard. Class can either be broken up in groups with one person making the chord and the rest of the group telling what it is, or teacher can form the chord and class can guess what chord is being formed.

- e. Teacher plays song accompaniments with two or three chords calling out the chord changes, students follow the vocal direction and/or use their ear. (*This gets the student's head out of the written music and into reliance on their ears*)

Week Eleven:

- a. Warm up
- b. Introduce finger style of guitar playing. Right hand thumb plays bass strings 6, 5, and 4; right hand finger one on string three, finger two on string two and finger three on string one. Curl fingers under treble strings (string one, two and three) and all three fingers pluck the strings together. Thumb plays bass (one note) and fingers pluck treble strings. For 3/4 time it is bass, pluck, pluck/alternate bass, pluck, pluck. We call the plucking—treble, treble; so the correct terminology is bass, treble, treble, etc.
- c. Play simple song accompaniments in 3/4 time using the finger style technique
- d. Play simple song accompaniments with any method student chooses to use.

Week Twelve:

- a. Warm up
- b. Introduce use of capo to change key (*See Forward p. IX*)
- c. Play duets using capo. Half the class will play a song in C (no capo) and other half use the chords in the key of A (with capo on third fret). The song will come out in the same key.
- d. Choose two other keys with one group using a capo.
- e. Play song accompaniments, student's choice of songs from book

Week Thirteen:

- a. Warm up
- b. Teach finger style technique for 4/4 songs. Thumb plays bass, 1, 2, and 3 fingers pluck together for a treble. Bass, treble, treble, Alternate bass, treble, treble.
- c. Play song accompaniments in 4/4 time with finger style technique.
- d. Ask class for feedback. What was easy? What is still giving them trouble? What can they do now in week thirteen that they couldn't do on week one? How are they going to keep themselves playing during the summer months?