



Brand New to Music Lessons?

Most of my students are absolute beginners, learning how to play an instrument for the very first time, and I always welcome first-time music students. Here is some information you might find helpful if you are thinking about getting started.

Basic Requirements

You will need an instrument, a corresponding reference book, and you'll need to set aside time for practicing.

How Practice Is Needed?

Regular daily practice is most effective. If you can average 30 minutes a day, you'll make good progress. For younger students, 20 minutes a day is often sufficient. Of course there will be days when your busy schedule may not permit playing for 30 minutes. However, you will be well served if you can at least pick up the instrument for 5 minutes. Don't let a day go by without getting some playing in, and try to average 20-30 minutes per day over the course of a week. As you may have guessed, more than 30 minutes of practice is always acceptable, and the more you practice, the faster you will progress.

How Quickly Will I Learn?

Learning music is not something that promises immediate success. The physical skills involved can take quite a while to develop to a high level. The mental understanding of music theory and the language of music is likewise a long-term undertaking. However, there are always short term successes and accomplishments that are met along the way, and I make certain that every one of my students enjoys their lesson every week. The best way to find out if you or your child is going to have a love for music is to get started with lessons right away!

What's the Best Age to Start?

Are you older than 5? Then it's time to begin. (And it's never too late.) I have taught students of all ages, from 5 to 55. Younger students require a modified teaching approach to keep their attention and interest. Contact me if you have any concerns with the age of a student, but in my experience, it is never too early or late to begin a musical education.

What If I Want to Write Songs?

The first thing you should do is to learn either piano or guitar. You need to be able to string together chord progressions that will accompany your melody and lyrics. If you already play piano or guitar, consider enrolling in the Studio 101 class that will focus specifically on song writing and production

Should I Learn Music Theory Before Taking Up an Instrument?

No, it's really best to learn an instrument before learning music theory. While you might think that learning some theory will facilitate learning an instrument, it's actually the other way around. Knowing at least some basics on an instrument will make music theory much more understandable and meaningful. All of my students will learn music theory as a part of their private lessons.

Acoustic or Electric Guitar?

Most of my guitar students begin on the acoustic guitar, however, this is not a rule that I specifically enforce. The acoustic guitar pushes the student just a bit harder because the instrument is less forgiving to technique than an electric guitar. It also helps the student strengthen their hand and build calluses, and all of the techniques learned on the acoustic guitar are transferable to the electric guitar. Many of my students start their lessons on the acoustic guitar, and then graduate to electric later down the road.

Acoustic Guitar - Steel String or Nylon String?

The steel string acoustic is by far the more commonly played acoustic guitar. Nylon string guitars have a warmer, softer sound, while steel string guitars have a brighter, louder sound. Classical guitar and flamenco music are played on nylon string instruments, while most folk, country, rock, worship, pop, and non-finger-picking style music is played on the steel string. Initially, the steel strings are harder to play because of higher string tension. The neck of the steel string acoustic is usually narrower than the neck of a nylon string acoustic. In general, the steel string guitar will provide a better sound and be easier to play than the standard classical nylon stringed guitar.

Please feel free to contact me with any other questions or to schedule a time to begin your music lessons.

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