



**Council for  
Guitar Education**

## **Beginner Guitar Best Practices**

The first-year (Beginning) guitar student will:

- perform using correct sitting posture and appropriate hand positions
- play a sixteen measure melody composed with eighth notes at a moderate tempo using alternate picking
- read standard music notation and play on all six strings in first position up to the fourth fret
- play melodies in the keys C, Am, G, Em, D, Bm, F and Dm down to a low E
- play scales such as C, G, A, D and E in first position
- have a tonal range which extends to the A above the staff
- identify chord diagrams and play major, minor and dominant seventh chords in first position in the keys of C, G, D, A, Am, E, & Em
- strum rhythms to include whole, half, quarter and eighth notes including simple syncopation
- play power chords using roots on open sixth, fifth and fourth strings
- identify and use p-i-m-a including rest stroke and free stroke
- identify and name the parts of the guitar
- identify basic musical symbols
- tune the guitar by pitch matching in standard (with aid of tuner or APP)
- play effectively and dependably as a part of an ensemble. As a class, the students should have a repertoire of at least four ensemble selections that they can play accurately and musically
- identify and perform in time signatures 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4
- perform in a variety of tempos
- demonstrate facilities in both flat picking and finger picking techniques

*Scroll to next page for Intermediate Best Practices*



## Intermediate Guitar Class Best Practices

The second-year (Intermediate) guitar student will:

- Read and play with standard notation for pitch, rhythm, meter, articulation, dynamics, and other elements of music
- Play dotted quarter note rhythms and triplets
- Read and perform rhythms and rhythmic patterns with note values including whole notes, half notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, eighth-note triplets, dotted halves, dotted quarters, dotted eighths and corresponding rests
- Play in time signatures 3/8, 6/8 and alla breve (♩ - cut time)
- Play in Fifth Position in the keys of C, Am, F and Dm
- Play melodic lines in the keys of C, Am, D, F, Dm, G, Em, A, Bb and Gm (three sharps and two flats)
- Play major scales in the keys C, D, F, Bb, G, A & E and A, D, E, and B natural and harmonic minor scales
- Play one form of the movable, two-octave pentatonic scale and two octave movable major scale form
- Play chromatic scale in first position ascending and descending
- Play from E3 – C6
- Play moveable bar chords based on the "E" and "A" chord forms
- Play I IV V7 I in every key using moveable forms
- Play power chords with roots on the E and A strings
- Play major, minor, major sevenths, dominant sevenths, minor sevenths and power chords in every key using moveable forms
- Play a standard 12-bar blues progression in a variety of keys and rhythmic styles
- Read chord diagrams and play from lead sheets using chord symbols and diagrams
- Play arpeggios using p-i-m-a
- Strum syncopated rhythms demonstrate facilities in both pick and finger-style techniques
- Demonstrate the ability to perform right-hand arpeggio and alternation techniques
- Create simple melodies in ABA form
- Participate in performance and evaluation of music
- Become aware of musical styles and composers and their correlation to world history
- Define and apply music terminology found in the music literature being studied
- Perform solo guitar literature with two contrapuntal voices
- Tune the guitar by using harmonics.