

LAS VEGAS ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Course: Guitar

Instructor: Swick

COURSE SCOPE:

This course is designed to assist students in playing the guitar. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on all levels and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful musician. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note-reading, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger-picking styles, melody construction, musical forms and performing experiences.

COURSE GOALS FOR BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE CLASSES:

1. To develop independence and strength in both left and right hands.
2. To learn to recognize and know the placement of all notes in first and fifth positions.
3. To learn to recognize and execute intermediate-level rhythms.
4. To analyze simple chord progressions and be able to play the guitar as an accompaniment instrument.
5. To learn to read multiple voices and play the guitar as a solo instrument.
6. To be able to perform two octaves Major, Mixolydian and Dorian scales in every key.
7. To be able to perform two octave arpeggios for all Major, Mixolydian, and Dorian scales.
8. To learn to execute dynamics, timbre and tempo.

COURSE GOALS FOR ADVANCED CLASS

1. To develop independence and strength in both left and right hands.
2. To learn to recognize and know the placement of all notes in first, fifth, second and seventh positions.
3. To learn to recognize and execute advanced-level rhythms.
4. To analyze intermediate-level chord progressions and be able to play the guitar as an accompaniment instrument.
5. To learn to read multiple voices and play the guitar as a solo instrument.
6. To be able to perform two octaves Major, Mixolydian, Dorian, Natural Minor, and Locrian scales in every key.
7. To be able to perform two octave arpeggios for all Major, Mixolydian, Dorian, Natural Minor and Locrian scales.
8. To learn to execute dynamics, timbre and tempo.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To enrich and enhance the life of each student through music.
2. To develop in each student a respect for music.
3. To cultivate responsibility and mutual respect among students.
4. To understand the basic elements of music: melody, harmony and rhythm.
5. To experience music as a tool of individual and group expression.
6. To become familiar with the music of various cultures, ages and styles.
7. To deal with the discipline and challenges of learning a musical instrument.
8. To develop skills of critical analysis.
9. To share the result in the form of live performance.

COURSE OUTLINE AND DESCRIPTION

Guitar will be a foundation for playing in a wide variety of styles. Students will learn both the melodic side of the guitar as well as how to use the guitar as an accompaniment instrument. Right-hand techniques will include playing with a flat pick as well as finger-style. Left-hand techniques will include learning all of the notes in various positions, major scales in all keys and chords in all keys. Improvisation and introductory music writing will be discussed and encouraged.

Four-Year Outline

First Year

*Complete “**First Position Studies**” 1-16*

*Complete “**Jazz Rhythms**” 1-16*

*Complete “**Right-Hand Preparatory**”, “**Book One**”, “**Book Two**”, “**Thomas Coffey**”, and “**Book Three**.” from the classical guitar Repertoire Series*

Learn and perform assigned parts to various ensemble pieces for a minimum of four performances

Second Year

*Complete “**Wohlfahrt Studies**” 1-16*

*Complete “**Jazz Rhythms**” 17-32*

*Complete “**Gaspar Sanz**”, “**Robert DeVisee**”, “**Ferdinando Carulli**”, and “**Matteo Carcassi**” from the classical guitar Repertoire Series*

Learn and perform assigned parts to various ensemble pieces for a minimum of four performances

Third Year

*Complete “**Wohlfahrt Studies**” 17-32*

*Complete “**Jazz Rhythms**” 33-40 Vol. 1 and studies 1-8 in Vol. 2*

*Complete “**Dionisio Aguado**”, “**Finger-Picking Good**”, “**Mauro Giuliani**”, and “**Fernando Sor**” from the classical guitar Repertoire Series*

Learn and perform assigned parts to various ensemble pieces for a minimum of four performances

Perform in a recital

Fourth Year

Complete **“Wohlfahrt Studies”** 33-36

Complete **“C. Rose Studies”** 1-12

Complete **“Jazz Rhythms”** 9-22 Vol. 2

Complete **“Finger-Picking Good Vol. 2,” “Ferdinando Carulli Vol. 2,” “Francisco Tarrega,”** and **“Villa-Lobos”** from the classical guitar Repertoire Series

Learn and perform assigned parts to various ensemble pieces for a minimum of four performances

Perform in the Senior Recital

REQUIRED DAILY EQUIPMENT

1. Guitar ****NOTICE****-for the purpose of definition, the guitar used in guitar class will be an ACOUSTIC, NYLON, 6-STRING guitar. Students are strongly recommended to provide privately owned instruments for use in rehearsals, concerts and home practice. Good quality instruments are available at reasonable rates to purchase or rent at several music stores in the area. Remember, when inquiring about an instrument, the guitar must be an ACOUSTIC, NYLON, 6-STRING guitar.
2. Guitar picks (student’s choice of thickness)
3. 3-Ring binder with pockets with subject dividers and notebook paper
4. Pencil
5. Guitar polishing cloth

School instruments may be available on a limited basis for classroom use only. **NO SCHOOL-OWNED GUITARS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR HOME USE.** Each student is expected to have his/her 3-ring binder, a pencil and a polish cloth each and every day. Failure to have these required materials in class will result in the loss of daily participation points.

LAB FEES

All students participating in any guitar class will be responsible for paying a \$20 lab fee each semester, or a total of \$40 per school year for guitar majors due at the beginning of the school year. This lab fee covers costs otherwise not covered in the annual budget. Fees include maintenance of classroom guitars, guitar club annual dues, replacement strings, Solo Repertoire Books (which students keep), technique books such as “Jazz Rhythms Vol. 1 & 2,” “First Position Studies,” “Fifth Position Studies,” “Chord Melodies Vol. 1 & 2,” etc. (all which students keep). **The \$40 fee is due at the first of the year before supplies and instruments are distributed.**

GUITAR CLUB

Every guitar major is a member of the Las Vegas Academy Guitar Club. The semester lab fees cover the club fee dues. Officers of the Guitar Club will meet at least once a month and have direct input on all finances and club activities including trips, after school activities, guest performers, purchases of materials, performances, etc.

INSURANCE

The school's insurance policy DOES NOT cover instruments owned by the student. If theft or other damage occurs at school, the instrument IS NOT COVERED by the school's policy. Students are encouraged to take their instruments home every day after school.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Students will have a playing test every other week which will consist of two pieces. One will be a "Jazz Rhythm Study," and the other will be a "First Position Study, Wohlfahrt Study or C. Rose Study," depending on the level of the student. The student will perform these pieces using computer software in which the software determines the student's grade based on precision and accuracy.

The following week each student will have the opportunity to perform 3 solo pieces for the class. These pieces will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Each piece is worth 33.3% and the weekly grade will be recorded. By the end of the quarter, each student must complete a minimum of 9 pieces (out of a possible 12) to receive an "A" and/or 8 pieces to receive a "B". Any amount less than 8 (out of 12) solo pieces passed per quarter is consideration for repeating the current level or moving to a lower level if the student is in Varsity 3 Guitar Ensemble.

Each student's grade will be determined by the total amount of accumulated points at the end of each nine-week period. The grading scale is as follows:

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

0% - 59% = F

The quarter grade also includes concert and rehearsal attendance, daily attendance and participation, concert dress, and a peer review.

DAILY PARTICIPATION, DAILY ATTENDANCE AND CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Because of the nature of this activity, personal attendance, attitude and participation in daily rehearsals affect the product of the entire ensemble. For this reason, great importance is placed on this area. Please keep this in mind when contemplating tardiness, absences and behavior in class.

Every member of the guitar class is a key performer and has a vital role in the musical ensemble. The success of the entire ensemble depends upon EVERYONE attending each performance. **PERFORMANCES ARE NOT OPTIONAL! PERFORMANCES ARE A REQUIRED PART OF THE CLASS.** Dates and times of a performance will be announced well in advance. Students will be dismissed from performances in the guitar

classroom only after the entire stage has been completely cleared and all equipment returned to the classroom. Students leaving before dismissal time will receive no credit in participation for the performance. **A missed quarterly performance will count for 20% of the grade or 2 letter grades. Any student not in complete concert attire will lose 10% or 1 letter grade of the quarter grade.**

PEER REVIEW

All students are required to complete a Peer Review each quarter, or a total of four per year. Students will attend a school performance other than a guitar performance and complete a Peer Review Critique. **Failure to complete a quarterly Peer Review will result in the loss of one letter grade or 10% for the quarter grade. All Peer Reviews are due 3 school days following the event.**

CONCERT DRESS

The uniform for formal public performances for boys will be a black tuxedo, white formal shirt, black bow tie and black socks and black shoes. Girls who would like to wear a tuxedo may do so. Otherwise, girls will be expected to wear a tea-length, black dress with black shoes. This is the standard dress for all LVA formal music performances.

Each student is responsible for purchasing his/her own uniform. Many students have found bargains by purchasing used tuxedos at local tuxedo rental companies. Formal Fashions at **formalfashionsinc.com** (1-800-528-7909) have complete tuxedos including shirt, tie and cummerbund at a reasonable price. Another company offering complete formal wear is www.stageaccents.com or call 1-800-631-1611.

The uniform for informal public performances and trips will include the LVA Music black polo shirt, solid black dress pants, solid black belt and solid black socks and solid black shoes. Jeans and tennis shoes are absolutely unacceptable! The black polo shirt will be made available for sale at school shortly after school begins. The cost will be around \$20. All guitar students are expected to purchase an LVA Music black polo shirt. **Any student not in complete concert dress will lose 10% or 1 letter grade for the quarter grade.**

Varsity 1 members will not need a tuxedo or formal wear.

DAILY PARTICIPATION POINTS

Each member begins each quarter with 100 points for participation. For block classes, each day is worth 2.2 points. Students may lose their daily participation points for tardiness, class disturbance, refusal to participate, missing materials, etc. Lost participation points may not be made up.

CLASS PLACEMENT

Each student will be placed into a guitar class based on skill level. There are three levels, Varsity 1, Varsity 2 and Varsity 3. In order for a student to progress to the next level class, he/she must earn a grade of a "B" or better and a citizenship grade of "S" or better for all four quarters of the school year. Earning a quarter grade of a "C" or lower

may result in the student remaining in Varsity 1 or Varsity 2 with no promotion. A student in Varsity 3 who does not maintain a “B” average or better, will be placed in Varsity 2 the following year.

Other considerations for progression to the next level:

- 1) attend all concerts and rehearsals
- 2) follow the dress code and uniform requirements for all performances
- 3) perform a minimum of 8 solos per quarter
- 4) do not exceed 5 absences per quarter (20 per school year)
- 5) turn in a Peer Review each quarter 3 days after the event

All students will follow the Four-Year Outline described earlier regardless of class placement.

CLASSROOM RULES

In order to guarantee students in the guitar classroom the positive learning climate they deserve, the following discipline plan is utilized. Every student is expected to:

1. Follow directions.
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to oneself.
3. Play or speak only after being recognized and given permission.
4. Be on time and seated with instrument, pencil and music.
5. **Avoid bringing gum, food or beverages** into the classroom.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING CLASS RULES

1. Verbal warning
2. Putting instrument away for the remainder of the class
3. Phone call or email to parents
4. Referral to a dean

Each action will be accompanied by the loss of daily participation points. The above consequences are not listed in any order. Any one consequence may be used depending on the severity of the action of the student. Any behavior which disrupts the entire class is considered cause to be sent to the dean.

Any student in Varsity 2 suspended from 180 days of travel will not be promoted to Varsity 3 the following year. Any student in Varsity 3 suspended from 180 days of travel will be placed in Varsity 2 the following school year.

FINGERNAILS

Students who choose to play a guitar cannot do so with long fingernails on their left hand. Fingernails on the left hand must be cut to an appropriate length so that the fingertips can rest on the fingerboard without the fingernails touching. Fingernails on the right hand should be shaped to get a combination of flesh and nail when playing finger-style. It is recommended that all students use a clear nail hardener for the right

hand nails. Students should also have a small manicuring set for shaping the right hand nails to proper length and shape.

TRIPS-VARSITY 3 STUDENTS ONLY

Varsity 3 is the premier guitar ensemble at LVA and frequently competes for the opportunity to perform at national music conventions and/or national guitar festivals. Every year since the inception of the guitar program, Varsity 3 has traveled to participate in one or more national conventions or festivals. These trips are educationally sound and have been the highlight of many guitar students' experience at LVA.

All students in Varsity 3 are expected to travel. These **trips are NOT OPTIONAL**. **Any students wishing not to travel during the school year has the opportunity to be removed from Varsity 3 during the first week of school.**

IN SUMMARY: COSTS AND COMMITMENTS FOR THE LVA GUITAR PROGRAM

COMMITMENTS:

1. LVA guitar classes meet daily for 85 minutes
2. Students are expected to practice daily lessons outside of class.
3. It is recommended that students take private lessons.
4. All guitar class performances are required attendance.
5. Students will have bi-weekly playing exams.
6. Students will have a semester exam and semester jury. The semester jury is a performance for music faculty outside of the guitar department.
7. Students will attend at least one performance each quarter of student performances other than guitar and write a Peer Review.
8. From time to time there may be after school rehearsals and weekend commitments which will all be a part of the final grade.
9. All guitar majors are members of the LVA Guitar Club.

COSTS:

1. There is a \$40 annual lab fee for all guitar classes due at the beginning of the school year. This covers use of a classroom guitar, replacement strings, music, and guitar club dues.
2. Students will be expected to purchase an LVA Guitar Polo Shirt. These will be made available through the school at the beginning of the year. The cost is approximately \$20 and will be part of the required casual attire.
3. Varsity 2 and 3 Students will be expected to purchase or rent a black tuxedo for boys and a tea-length black formal dress for girls. This will be the required formal attire.
4. From time to time there will be festival fees for students participating in Solo & Ensemble competitions and/or performances.
5. For Varsity 3 students, there will be the cost of 1 or 2 trips.

6. It is recommended that each student own a better than beginning quality classical, nylon string guitar.

THIS HANDBOOK IS ONLY A SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDE FOR GUITAR MAJORS. EACH STUDENT SHOULD ALSO HAVE A COPY OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK WHICH COVERS THE DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROCEDURES.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK TO THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK, SIGN AND RETURN THE APPROPRIATE PAGES.

PLEASE VISIT THE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE AND COPY THE DATES INTO YOUR CALENDAR AND/OR PLANNER.

PLEASE SIGN THIS PORTION OF THE HANDBOOK AND RETURN IT TO MR. SWICK.

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

I have printed and read the LVA Guitar Class Handbook and Performance Schedule for the school year. I understand performances and rehearsals are a required part of the class. I also understand the costs and commitments to the LVA Guitar Program. I understand this is my child's major course of study at LVA and will assist him/her in fulfilling the commitments as outlined in this handbook.

Student's Name Please Print

Students Signature

Date

Parent's Name Please Print

Parents Signature

Date

Parent's Email

Address: _____

Please Print