



Skill Maps

GUITAR

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 1: 6-12 YRS.

Taaqademy's music teachers are carefully chosen for their musical ability, teaching aptitude, live performance experience and music qualifications - pretty much in that order. We can confidently claim to have some of the country's top musicians with us. As a result, we use a proprietary method of '**Skill Maps**' to bring structure and focus

to our classes, enabling our musicians to **avoid cookie-cutter methods** when working with students. Skill Maps provide **detailed specifics** on what students should be able to accomplish at every level while allowing our teachers to use their own **unique approaches**, songs, techniques and shortcuts to get students there!

GUITAR INTERMEDIATE LEVEL 1: AREAS COVERED



MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS



SONG LEARNING



EAR TRAINING



LIVE PERFORMANCE



MUSCULAR TRAINING



IMPROVISATION



SIGHT READING



MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

MORE DETAILS BELOW...



MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS

- 2-Octave Maj & min scales using movable shapes.
- 5 Pentatonic Scale shapes across the neck.
- Maj, min, 7th, sus, and add9 chords, open-string and movable barre shapes (CAGED). All chords learnt with 'spellings'
- Understanding Intervals
- Using intervals to harmonize scales and generate 'chord families'
- Understanding basic cadences and resolutions.
- For Electric Guitarists - good grasp of tone setting and understanding of elements of a signal chain'. Acoustic guitarists - good grasp of tone and dynamics.



EAR TRAINING

- Ability to sing major, minor and pentatonic scales with only root as reference.
- Ability to pick up melodies/simple solos and chords for pop songs by ear.
- Understanding non-diatonic chord progressions and beginning to develop the ability to work them out by ear.



MUSCULAR TRAINING

- Alternate picking: 1/4 notes at 90 - 110 bpm; 1/8 notes at 70 - 90 bpm (at a minimum).
- Technique - palm muting, sliding, string bending, double stops, basic vibrato, hammer-ons, pull-offs.
- Technique - finger-picking, acoustic muting, percussive rhythms.



SIGHT READING

- Book Examples - Mel Bay Guitar Method Grade 1, up to Duets, simple bass + chord accompaniment. RSL Grade 1 pieces.
- Ability to read chord charts fluently for accompaniment.



SONG LEARNING

- Ability to play at least 10 pop-style songs and a few solos as well.
- Ability to play RSL Grade 1 or Grade 2 pieces fluently and well.



LIVE PERFORMANCE

- 2-3 Taaqademy Recitals, 1 Taaqademy Live performance, participation in 1-2 Taaqademy 'Jam-Bands'.



IMPROVISATION

- Knowledge of simple pentatonic licks that can be used to play spontaneously over static harmony



MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

- RSL Awards Grade 1 or 2 (depending on ability/practice); Trinity Rock & Pop Grade 2 - 3 (depending on ability/practice).

HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

- At this level, if you **consistently practice** an avg. **30min - 1 hr. per day**, you can expect to have mastered the above in **6 months (24 classes)** or less.
- If you practice around **2 hrs. per week**, this could **add 2 months**.
- If you practice **<1 hr. per week**, you could take **10+ months!**