



Skill Maps

GUITAR

BEGINNER LEVEL 2: 13 - ADULT

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 BEGINNER LEVEL 2: AREAS COVERED



MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS



SONG LEARNING



EAR TRAINING



LIVE PERFORMANCE



MUSCULAR TRAINING



IMPROVISATION



SIGHT READING



MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

MORE DETAILS BELOW...



MUSIC THEORY & FUNDAMENTALS

- Ability to tune the guitar with a reference note only for the first string
- Note names for first 5 frets on the guitar, all strings
- Understanding of note/rest values (whole/half/quarter/eighth/sixteenth), time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 2/4) and other staff markings
- Major Scale - 'Open' and 'Movable' positions, 2 Octaves
- Minor Scale - 'Open' and 'Movable' positions, 2 Octaves
- Pentatonic Scale - 3 positions, 2 Octaves
- Basic understanding of chord families - 3-chord theory, harmonized major scale
- CAGED open-string major & minor chords, half-barre chords and understanding of movable chord shapes



EAR TRAINING

- Ability to sing a Major or minor scale with only the root as a reference
- Ability to pick up simple melodies by ear and play them on the instrument in open and 'movable' positions
- Ability to pick up simple major/minor chords by ear, using the understanding of chord families/harmonized major scale
- For Electric Guitar - good understanding of tone and settings - pickups, controls, amp settings, basic FX pedals, etc.



MUSCULAR TRAINING

- Alternate picking, 2-, 3- and 4-finger chromatic exercises with metronome: quarter notes at 70 - 100 bpm, eighth notes at 50 - 80 bpm
- Alternate picking, 2-octave major, minor and pentatonic scales with metronome; quarter notes at 70 - 100 bpm; eighth notes at 50 - 80 bpm
- Chord changes with metronome - open string chords (1 chord/bar) at 80 - 100 bpm, barre chords at 60 - 80 bpm
- Knowledge of at least 3 - 4 variations of strength, accuracy and articulation exercises



SIGHT READING

- Book Examples - Mel Bay Guitar Method Grade 1, up to 'First Duet'
- Ability to fluently read and play melodies using all 6 strings, in first position



SONG LEARNING

- Ability to play 5 - 10 melodies; ability to play 3 - 5 songs with chords changing in time
- Ability to play e.g. RSL Awards Grade 1 or Trinity Grade 1 pieces in time with backing track



LIVE PERFORMANCE

- >2 Taaqademy Recitals
- At least 1 Taaqademy Live performance



IMPROVISATION

- Knowledge of simple pentatonic licks that can be used to play spontaneously over I-IV-V 'Blues' -type changes.



MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

- RSL Awards/Trinity Grade 1 or Grade 2 Examination (based 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 **4 months (16 classes)** .
- 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!