

Messages

To the student:

Most teachers teach in the same manner in which they were taught, using the same books, exercises, etc. While this book presents a new approach to learning to play the guitar, it should in no way, blunt the expertise of your chosen surrogate teacher. Your teacher is not the loyal opposition, but rather a person who, with your co-operation, will share the necessary expertise to lead you to your desired goal. Be fair with your teacher. Your teacher, like you, is a person.

To the teacher:

Many students will request that you first teach them to play, take two or three hours or days, if necessary, and then teach them "that other stuff." Be patient and kind as you try to explain the impossibility of that request. Your student will readily respond to any reasonable, sensible requests and balk at any unnecessary authoritative mannerism. Be fair with your student. Like you, your student is a person. Since the rate of learning will vary from student to student, it is left to you to determine what portion of each lesson is needed for the steady progress of each individual involved with you, in the learning process.

Basic Principles Upon Which This Work Is Built:

1. Teach one thing at a time.
2. The subject matter is arranged in such a way that each step is a natural outgrowth of the last and leads logically to the next episode.
3. All lessons are cumulative. They should remain in the practice cycle until the pressure of time demands relief. At this point, the student should start the procedure of eliminating the beginning lessons, one at a time. Some plan of careful review and rotation of the dropped lessons, should be adhered to.
4. All lessons are to be learned, not memorized. Think of your brain as a sponge. Into that sponge you are going to store all of your musical knowledge. Your arms, hand and fingers, having no brain, can remember very little. Do yourself a favour and put the practice time into training your brain. This is where all of your musical ideas spring from.

You are what you are, because at birth, you received a series of gifts. (talents) You had no choice. Like them or not, they are exclusively yours. If through them, you are a fast learner, you are just plain lucky. (not necessarily smart) If you are a slow learner, welcome to the club! Whether you turn out to be a "good, excellent or great" guitarist, will largely depend on these gifts and the quantity and quality of the effort expended by you in your search for your musical self. Be kind to yourself. Be patient with yourself. Even you don't know the dimensions of these gifts.

Be informed that, while I have charted this course, YOU are the teacher. Your surrogate teacher can only show you "how ." YOU must teach yourself to "DO!"

Good Luck!

Tony Bradan

Editor's Comment: Perhaps the most important statement is the very last quote in the above messages. The point is that without great effort, nothing will be accomplished. (G.A.)