

## George Arvola



How old should you be to start playing the guitar? I was 16 and began my professional career at the age of 19. Young students can begin at a much earlier age as long as they have the proper sized instrument and a very strong desire.

My best natural talent is a good musical ear and a better than average musical memory. The fingers had to be trained.

Do I have any official musical degree? Unofficially I have a Phd. from the University of Life Experience. I did study with a very inspired teacher, Tony Bradan from 1976 to about 1980 after already having been a professional player and teacher for many years. Organizing my musical thinking was one of the great results from my lessons with Tony and we also became the best of friends. I have structured much of my teaching ideas on the system introduced to me by my now lost friend. Mr. Bradan passed away some years ago and is missed by many, including me.

Guitar Fundamentals Primer has been in the works for many years and continues to be a work in progress. There is no such thing as "The Definitive Book" on how to play the guitar. GFP is how I teach and certainly contains the basics of what a novice player should know in the beginning stages of a guitar player's career. The type of music that you will ultimately perform is a bit irrelevant. The first step is to develop some technique and basic understanding.

George Arvola

## Bruce Arbuckle



I started playing the guitar at about age 16 having previously been formally trained on the piano and now wanting to continue my music studies on an instrument that was of real interest to me. My decision was to take guitar lessons to enable me to play with some competence. In 1981 I began studying with George Arvola and was exposed to his teaching methods. For the past 26 years, I have had a firsthand viewpoint of his passion for the guitar. The creation of good music requires more than just playing chords and melodies, but needs considerable thought and application of your musical knowledge.

A few years later, I went on to study at Mohawk College. I obtained a diploma in Jazz Performance in 1988 and have taught and performed in Southern Ontario since that time.

It is a privilege for me to be able to assist George in the compilation of this book, as it is in direct line with my musical philosophies on how the guitar should be taught and what tools should be given to new students in order to improve their skills at the entry level.

I know that you will enjoy this book and remember to not just only go through the exercises but readily learn to apply them to your music each day.

Playing the guitar is a lifelong journey that requires perseverance and dedication. I hope this book is the start of your many musical adventures.

Bruce Arbuckle