

## Introduction by George Arvola (editor)

Book 1 of "A Learning Process For Playing The Guitar" was originally written in around 1983 and Tony made only a few copies which he distributed to several of his ex-students. I was one of those lucky students and kept the copy for all of these years. The book was a prototype for something that Tony was hoping to publish. More recently, after inquiries from some of Tony's other ex-students, I decided to take one more look at the book and this prompted putting the volume into a more readable form.

I do not imagine that Tony was trying to write a million seller when he created this work. His own words state that "there is no one and only way to teach." This book contains the "process" by which Tony operated. The intellectual value may not jump out at you from the pages but careful perusal will ultimately reveal a very detailed and logical system. You may also garnish some of Tony's subtle sense of humour.

Readers and players can decide for themselves to see if they have the courage and staying power for the suggested program. Teachers can similarly decide if they have prospective students who would have that courage and dedication.

When I began studying with Tony in the mid 1970's , I was already a reasonably mature player with a number of years of playing and teaching experience under my belt. The consequence was that I did not go through this preliminary process to any great degree. I believe that Tony thought that I did not really need to do so. Certainly we touched upon many of the points that are suggested in this book but I was at least a bit surprised by its intensity when Tony presented this volume for my viewing. In around 1983 or it may have been a few years later, we spent a long afternoon in Toronto, looking at and discussing what he had produced.

Although I am calling myself the Editor of this book, I have not actually done much in the way of editing. The main change that I have made in the book is to take it from a "type writer" and "hand written" manuscript, into the 21st century and the world of computers. This book was written prior to or just at the verge of the availability of personal computers. Any small editorial changes and/or additions will be clearly indicated by a bracketed (**Editor**) followed by text in a different font and then concluded with my initials "G.A." All of the other text is the original Tony Bradan material.

Tony only completed Book 1 although the rest of the course of study was made available to me in around 1997 when he was already quite weak from a chronic illness. On one of my last visits to see Tony, then living in the Vancouver area, he handed me a briefcase containing about 600 or more pages of hand written manuscript. I had seen this material previously as it contained most of the lesson material which we had covered in the 70's when I took weekly lessons with him in Toronto. The contents of the briefcase were considerably more detailed than what I had previously seen but essentially, they indeed were the lessons in the course and in chronological order. One thing that immediately struck me when I started to peruse the material was that it was mostly devoid of text.

Tony and I discussed this gift and at that time, he suggested that if I was interested in carrying on with the project, I should do whatever I deemed appropriate. Perhaps needless to say, I felt very honoured. I asked Tony why he gave this package to me in particular and his reply was something to this effect: "I know that you will only alter necessary things but the basic course with its philosophy, will remain intact." Tony did have a crew of more illustrious students than myself and he absolutely admired their dedication and skills. However, he did say that I appeared to be the one who was most interested and passionate about his teaching style.

Books 2,3,4 and 5 of the "Learning Process" are available but published under the title "Guitar Fundamentals" by George Arvola. In Guitar Fundamentals, Books 2,3,4 and 5, it is clearly stated that the majority of the content is based on a manuscript called "A Learning Process For Playing The Guitar" by Tony Bradan. At the time of this writing, these books are only available by contacting George Arvola in Kitchener, Ontario. The easiest method would be the internet by simply using Google or go directly to my website: [www.georgearvola.com](http://www.georgearvola.com)

Students looking to find a teacher who uses Tony's approach might make a web-search using Google to find out about Tony Bradan. At least some information will appear and there are quite a number of Tony's ex-students who also teach guitar. Do they use Tony's "process?" I don't know, but I am sure that they would be more than happy to talk to you about their teaching styles. I am similarly interested in a dialogue with other teachers and students.

What follows is **all** directly reproduced from the original manuscript of Book 1, "A Learning Process For Playing The Guitar" by Tony Bradan.

George Arvola