

Public Academy for the Performing Arts

Guitar

Faculty Name: Mark Opperman
Class Location: Room #20 “Studio 20”
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Please note: Students must use their PAPA email address when contacting instructor by email.

This syllabus describes general course content, requirements and materials. However, all aspects of this description are subject to my revision in order to best tailor the course to the needs of students, calendar, and circumstance.

Course Description

This program will focus on the art of classical guitar performance. Students will learn a series of solo and ensemble pieces that will be performed at various times and venues throughout the school year.

Repertoire 30% Quizzes 20% Participation 20%
Concerts/Performances/District Events* 30%

100% - 96% A+ 95% - 93% A 92% - 90% A
89% - 86% B+ 85% - 83% B 82% - 80% B
79% - 76% C+ 75% - 73% C 72% - 70% C
69% - 66% D+ 65% - 63% D 62% - 60% D

59% and below is an F

Fingernails

It is customary to play classical guitar with the fingernails of the right hand. Students are encouraged to grow their right hand fingernails out enough to pluck the strings. This is essential for a clean loud tone and also facilitates many right hand techniques. Nails do not need to be very long and are shaped in a specific manner.

Left hand fingernails should be kept short at all times. Long nails on the left hand will prevent the student from fretting notes on the tips of their fingers which is essential to playing guitar with fluid technique. Students should also refrain from applying acrylic nails (especially on the left hand).

Practice

You may need to spend time outside of class working on the assigned music. And remember that greater progress is made with consistent effort over time. It is paramount that you do not wait

until the last minute before a performance to solidify your repertoire.

Private Lessons

Students are highly encouraged to take private lessons. If any student is interested in seeking private lessons, I can recommend several qualified teachers.

District Events

Students will be asked to participate in District VII guitar events such as:

Honor Guitar

Music Performance Assessment (MPA)*

Solo/Ensemble

NMMEA All State Music Conference (acceptance to All State is based on a blind audition with predetermined repertoire)

*Participation in MPA is mandatory

School Concerts

Participation in school concerts is mandatory and counts for 30% of your final semester grade. Concert dress will be a black button down shirt or blouse and black pants. Only ankle length black skirts are acceptable. Students are free to wear silly socks in place of black dress socks. Medical or catastrophic emergencies are acceptable excuses for missing a concert without a grade penalty. Documentation may be required.

Not having a ride or not being able to miss work will not be excusable reasons for missing a school concert and result in a grade penalty up to failing the semester.

Google Classroom

We will utilize google classroom for the posting of daily class agendas, assignments, announcements, and other important information.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join the google classroom. Students will be given the code to their specific section in class. These codes are not to be shared with any person outside of PAPA. Codes are class specific and should not be shared with peers outside of the specific class section.

Remind

We will use the Remind app as an alternative form of communication. Parents and students are free to contact me on Remind with questions pertaining to school related topics. Remind is a good way to quickly get a hold of me in case of an emergency or any situation requiring a quick response.

To join my Remind send a text message to: **81010**

Type **@papagu** in the message field, hit send, and follow the instructions.

Students under the age of 13 will have special instructions to follow and will need parent/guardian permission to join.

Grading Criteria

Students will be graded on an individual basis by the instructor and will be asked to demonstrate

their progress towards achieving the course learning objectives. This demonstration will take place during class as a quiz. Each student will perform/demonstrate a portion of the assigned material from the preceding weeks. This may include assigned pieces/parts, scales, chords, techniques, and theory. Students will be graded on their ability to perform all of the material included in the quiz along with accuracy of notes, rhythms, left/right hand posture, and finger placement. Tempo will not be considered as part of your quiz grade. You are free to play at a tempo that you are comfortable with. However, a steady tempo must be maintained and concert tempo should be achieved prior to performance. After the student performs the instructor will provide constructive feedback and suggest ways to improve as needed.

Classroom Etiquette

Above all students are expected to be respectful and willing to learn.

Students should enter the classroom in a calm manner and set up their materials in this order:

1. Music stand with assigned music
2. Footstool
3. Guitar

After setting up you will immediately tune your guitar and begin warming up for the rehearsal. During rehearsal students are expected to follow all directions, be engaged, and try their best.

Raise your hand when you have a question and feel free to ask questions at appropriate times.

Bathroom breaks should be taken during passing periods.

During quizzes and practice times students are free to work with each other on the assignments.

Any student who either intentionally or through irresponsible treatment damages a school instrument will be held financially responsible for the replacement of the school instrument. If a case arises where a student has intentionally damaged or destroyed any instrument, that student will no longer have access to any school instruments and will complete alternative assignments for the remainder of the academic calendar.

Cellphones

Students may use their cellphones for tuning their guitars or other apps such as a metronome. All other cell phone use during class is prohibited unless specified by the instructor.

Students who do not wish to follow these guidelines of conduct and etiquette will be placed on a behavior contract and may be excluded from participation in guitar related events inside and outside of the classroom. Please refer to the PAPA Student Handbook for further information on academic/conduct expectations for students, and the administrative discipline process.

Course Learning Outcomes (as per approved master syllabus)

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Play confidently in an ensemble

2. Read musical notation
3. Express concepts of music theory using the appropriate vocabulary
4. Explain the historical and cultural context of musical repertoire
5. Perform solo and ensemble repertoire with confidence

Additional Faculty Goals for students in this course:

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate fluid left/right hand techniques
2. Prepare and Perform multiple musical pieces
3. Apply music theory and musicianship concepts to the guitar
4. Participation in Honor Guitar, MPA, Solo/Ensemble, and All State.

Masterclass Series

The masterclass series will be a continuous feature of our guitar program. Throughout the school year professional guitarists will be invited to come work with students. These students will perform pieces they are working on for the guest artist and receive constructive feedback and critique. Students should be able to play the selected works in their entirety. Students may perform solo, duo, trio, or quartet pieces.

*All dates and assignments are subject to change. Any changes to these dates and assignments will be announced in class and students will be notified via google classroom or Remind.

Important Dates

9/17

Masterclass with Lars Panaro

10/15-10/17

Hummingbird Music Camp Clinic

10/29

Masterclass with Susanna Garcia

11/3-11/5

Honor Guitar

11/19

Masterclass with Martin Ly

TBA

Fall Semester Concert

2/25

Masterclass with Daniel Rolison

3/11

MPA (Large Group Festival)

3/25

Masterclass with Javier Ortega

4/16

Solo/Ensemble

TBA

Spring Semester Concert

Materials List:

1 pack of D'addario EJ 46 classical guitar strings

Fingernail file

Fingernail clippers

Black 3 ring binder

Notebook

Pencils

Any student who has their own nylon string classical guitar is encouraged to bring it to class for their own personal use.

Any student who can purchase their own classical guitar is encouraged to do so. I would highly recommend a Yamaha C40 as a beginner level classical guitar. More advanced players may want to consider a higher end guitar. Feel free to talk to me about this in class.

If any student has access to a classical guitar that happens to be in a state of disrepair, I would be happy to take a look at it and make repairs (if possible) at no charge to the student or parent/guardian. Feel free to talk to me about it in class.