

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.

Required Materials List:

1 pack of D’addario EJ 46 classical guitar strings

Fingernail file

Fingernail clippers

Black 3 ring binder

Notebook

Pencils

Electronic Tuner

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, clear, and audible 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 or fake nails on the left hand. Any playing quiz, test, or performance that cannot be performed due to having long nails of the fretting hand will result in 0% for the grade. No makeup grade will be allowed under these circumstances.

Practice

You will absolutely 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. Having a private teacher along with your classes at PAPA will accelerate your progress on guitar and allow the opportunity for greater success in music in general. If any student is interested in seeking private lessons, I can recommend several qualified teachers.

District Events

Students will have the opportunity to participate in New Mexico Music Educators Association 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 recorded live audition with predetermined repertoire)

*Participation in MPA is mandatory for Chamber Guitar students.

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, or a papa polo, 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 monitor and check their students google classroom for important information about weekly assignments, assessments, performances, and NMMEA

events. 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.

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 and tempo. After the student performances 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

The guitar should be taken out of its case last after all other materials are set up. This ensures the safety of the 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.

Cellphones

Cellphones are not used during class time as per school policy.

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. Participate 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

All State Guitar (**Admitted by audition only**)

Registration: 9/1

Registration Deadline: 10/2

Audition Upload: 10/24 - 11/6

All State Conference 1/4 - 1/7 UNM Popejoy Hall

11/7,

Honor Guitar

Albuquerque Academy

Fall Guitar Concert

12/10

3/17

MPA (Large Group Festival)
Cibola High School

4/29
Solo/Ensemble
Taylor Middle School

TBA
Spring Semester Concert

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 Cordoba C5 or any comparable classical guitar. More advanced players may want to consider a higher end guitar like Cordoba C7. 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.