

Beginning Folk Guitar 1

Dates: September 11 - October 23 (7 weeks)

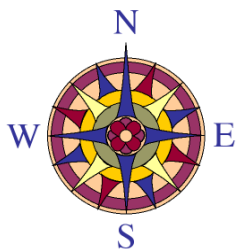
Instructor: Libby Wiebel

Objective: Learn to play fun American folk songs on the acoustical guitar in a small group setting! Each week kids will enjoy learning basic chords and strumming patterns for familiar songs chosen primarily, but not exclusively, from the rich canon of American folk music. Also included will be a selection of children's nursery songs, as these are short, familiar, and easily learned. Students will be encouraged to sing along while playing favorites such as "Camptown Races", "Oh Susannah", and "You are My Sunshine." New chords and new songs will be added each week as students also learn to read music and basic music theory. Students will also learn how to hold, tune, and care for their guitars.

Students should be able to read at grade level for this class, and should plan to practice at home each week. Each student will need a beginner level acoustical guitar. See the separate document for the instructor's tips on purchasing or leasing a guitar. The instructor will provide handouts and public domain sheet music, but students will also be asked to purchase a songbook (see materials section).

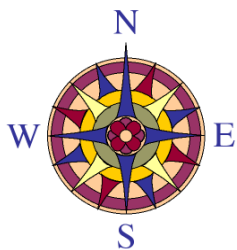
Preliminary Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Theme/Topic</u>
1	Musical icebreaker, holding guitar, tuning (using a tuner), easy Em, C, G chords. Several one-chord songs.
	Skill/Technique: Tuning, Downward strum on beat
	Theory: Standard tuning notes
	Chords: Easy Em, Easy C, Easy G



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- 2 Review last week's chords and songs, play/sing "Row, Row" in a round, reading and creating chord diagrams, playing songs with two chords
- Skill/technique: Switching chords in song
- Theory: Chord diagrams
- Chords: Easy G7
- 3 Introduce the D Chord. Talk about 4/4 time, measures, strong/weak beats. Count beats in the songs we've learned thus far. Present diagrams for full C, G, Em, G7 chords. Students may begin to learn the more difficult versions of these chords or stick with the easy/smaller versions.
- Skill/Technique: Counting while playing
- Theory 4/4 time
- Chords: D, Full G, Full C, Full Em, Full G7
- 4 Present students with a song to figure out "by ear" -- work on this in pairs. Write out the chords for this song in lead-sheet format.
- Skill/Technique: Lead sheets, Playing by ear
- Theory: Lead sheet writing
- 5 Introduce 3/4 time. Present a 3/4 song. Have students aurally identify 3/4 and 4/4 songs.
- Theory: 3/4 time
- Chords: A, E7
- 6 Learn Roman Numerals and learn to number our chords -- I, IV, V, V7, vi.
- Theory: Roman numerals (intro chord theory)



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Present a new, simple strum pattern for 4/4 and for 3/4. Review favorite songs.

Skill/Technique: Strum patterns

Theory: 8th notes (necessary for strum patterns)

Sample Song Selection

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|---------------------------|--|
| • Billy Boy | • If I Had A Hammer |
| • Buffalo Gals | • I've Been Working On the Railroad |
| • Camptown Races | • Over My Head |
| • Clementine | • Row Row Row Your Boat |
| • Down in the Valley | • She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain |
| • Farmer in the Dell | • Skip to My Lou |
| • Frere Jacques | • This Little Light of Mine |
| • Happy Birthday | • Yankee Doodle |
| • Home On the Range | |
| • I Gave My Love A Cherry | |

Materials and Supplies

Students will need their own acoustic guitars. Either steel string or nylon string guitars are fine. A good beginner guitar can be purchased for \$100-150, and there are often back-to-school and holiday instrument sales. See instructor's additional handout on purchasing a beginner guitar. Students will also need an electric tuner which can be purchased for under \$20, and guitar picks. Students will need to purchase a song book, "American Folksongs For Easy Guitar" (\$12.95) payable directly to the instructor.

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