

in~Studio

Music Technology Education



Course Title: Songwriting With The Guitar

Teacher: Kyle McMahan

- Studio guitar player for Fragile Music Group studio in Orland Park, Illinois.
- Professional Guitarist, Songwriter, BMI Artist,
- Producer, Songwriter, Guitarist for The Righteous and Few.
- Recording Engineer for artists at Fragile Music Group studio.
- Guitar studio recordings for La Bouche remix "Be my Lover"
- In-Studio Graduate
- AVID Pro Tools 12 User Certified

Course Curriculum

Topics Covered:

- **Getting to know the Guitar:**

This section will feature standard tunings, guitar maintenance, and the basic knowledge necessary to keep the students' guitar in good shape. They will also get in depth descriptions of the different types of pickups, and the advantages that each can have in a studio setting.

- Tunings (Standard, Drop D, D Standard, etc.)

- A tour of the guitar and its different parts (Neck, Tuning Keys, Trust Rod, Fret Board, Volume and tone pots, Pick ups)

- How to re-string your guitar

- Pickups (Single Coil, Humbuckers, Lip sticks, p90's, etc.)

- Other Miscellaneous guitar maintenance

- Review basic theory and how it applies to the guitar (meter, time signature, rhythm, and notes)

- **How To Practice:**

This will be an important tips and tricks lesson for the most efficient way to practice and increase dexterity on the guitar as fast as possible.

- Legato and finger strength separation exercise -Picking technique exercises - Speed exercises (If applicable) -Rhythm and Strumming Exercises

- **Chords:** This is an important and lengthy section that will include many different types of chords and how they can be applied to songwriting, different genres, and developing as a guitarist. This will also begin the introduction of intervallic distances on the neck and how they relate to the different chord types presented.

- Power Chords -Open Shape Chords -Basic Triads -The CAGED System

-Bar/Moveable Chord Shapes -Chord Scales (7th Chords) -Intro to Songwriting with chords -Intro to Songwriting chord formulas -Chords across the genres

• **Scales and Intervals:**

Very basic scales and their intervallic ranges will be covered in this section to help students improvise solos or melodic lead passages throughout their songs.

-Major and Minor Pentatonic Scale and it's impact on the guitar -The Natural Major and Minor scales -Scale application and intervallic importance - Composing melody lines with scales

-Advanced Scales if applicable

(All 7 Modes, Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, etc.)

• **Songwriting With The Guitar:**

This section brings together the newfound understanding of chords, scales, and their importance within songwriting. This section will delve into their artists of interest and how they utilize the theory presented in this class in order to help the student compose amazing songs of their own!

-Breaking down the guitars job in the songwriting process

-Analyze structure and progressions of artists of interest and popularity

-Create songwriting templates based on specific genres and styles

-Study chord formulas used by famous musicians in the past and what styles each formula is used in

-Write songs in different genres of interest and record them in the booth as a final test of performance, and songwriting skills!

• **Extra Topics:**

-Recording guitars DI into DAW's

-Proper equipment for recording guitars - Best amps, and guitars for new guitarists - Proper microphone placement on amps and acoustic guitars - Basic editing and recording tips and techniques for the bedroom guitarist