

Guitar Program

Decode Music's guitar program runs on a 38-week schedule that can be condensed or modified upon request. The program consists of 6 pillars: Technique, Theory, Improvisation, Repertoire Building, Ear Training and Live Performances

Technique:

Working through finger exercises, scales, chord exercises and learning appropriately challenging segments of songs, students will slowly build their finger strength and dexterity. Our program challenges the notion that learning guitar "has to hurt" and our program works in such a way as to slowly introduce technical aspects only once the previous ones have been mastered. This allows for a much more enjoyable experience, without the "pain" of sore fingers.

Theory:

Our students are taught theory, note recognition and reading music both in standard notation and tablature. They develop an understanding of how scales are built and why different chords and scales sound good together.

Improvisation:

Fostering creativity is a key component of our lessons. Right from the initial lessons, students are encouraged to improvise. At first, they will improvise using words to create songs on the spot, as they build their technique and theory, improvisation can be brought to their guitar. Eventually, students will be capable of improvising solos on the spot and many will even become adept at songwriting.

Repertoire Building:

From day one, students are taught how to play along to "real songs". They will immediately start to build their repertoire and by the end of year one, will have a handful of songs they can play to their family and friends. Repertoire building also works to reinforce all of the other pillars.

Ear Training:

Students are taught to identify intervals and melodies, with long-term and sustained practice, students will be able to listen to and figure out how to play songs by ear.

Live Performances:

Our students are given multiple opportunities to perform in live venues throughout the year. Music is a social endeavour and not only does this allow them to share their music and connect to people through it, but it also provides experience for presenting, and speaking in public.