

Online Guitar Lessons ~ Information Sheet for Students

Welcome to this adventure in long-distance guitar learning! I hope the following information helps make your experience as trouble-free and rewarding as possible. I welcome any feedback on both the “nuts-and-bolts’ of the experience and the content of your lessons.

- 1) **Connectivity:** Make sure you’ve got as strong an internet connection as possible, and that you’ve closed other programs or apps that might slow your computer down. If you’re using a laptop or tablet, make sure it’s plugged in or charged up. I am happy to use either Zoom, FaceTime, or Skype, per your preference.
- 2) **Sound quality:** Although you might find that you prefer headphones or external speakers, most people find that their laptop or desktop speakers are sufficient. Feel free to experiment during the lesson to find the best setup for you. Obviously, the quieter the room, the easier it will be for us to hear each other.
- 3) **Lighting:** Try to set yourself up in a well-lit room (good general lighting works just fine, or light from the front or side of you). If you can, try to avoid being back-lit by a lamp or window.
- 4) **Time Delay:** You’ll notice a slight time lag between us as we talk and play back and forth. Unfortunately, this means that we won’t be able to play or sing at the same time, but we’ll become expert at taking turns!
- 5) **Materials:** If you’d like me to have any song lyrics, chord charts, or other printed material ready for your lesson, please try to let me know a day or more in advance. I can scan and e-mail material, and can also text or e-mail quick snapshots of something we’re working on during the lesson, too, if needed.
- 6) **Recording:** Please feel free to record, photograph, or video any portion of the lesson. I do request that you not post any of this material on-line or share it electronically.
- 7) **Preparation:** Especially with long-distance lessons, it helps to have a particular lesson goal in mind. Examples of such goals might be: learning a particular song or tune, focusing on an aspect of theory, expanding chord vocabularies, working on arrangement ideas, focusing on right or left hand technique, starting or working on a

composition, transposition exercises, reading or writing music, or improvising. I am happy to discuss this with you to help develop a plan.

8) **Additional preparation:** Please try to have your guitar tuned to a tuner prior to the lesson. If you use a capo or picks, stash them handily nearby. A pencil, notebook, music stand or table can be useful. Feel free to use a recording device in order to help you remember juicy tidbits. I can also record certain passages on my phone and text or e-mail them to you.

9) **Cost:**

One hour: \$65; package of 4: \$240

45-minutes: \$55; package of 4: \$200

I also offer a free ½ hour lesson, if you'd like to try one before committing to more.

I accept payments through online companies such as Paypal, Venmo or Cash App. Personal checks received in advance are also fine (within the U.S). Please plan on paying either in advance or within ½ hour of the completion of our lesson.

10) **Cancellation Policy:** Even if you have not been able to practice as much as you had hoped to (join the crowd!), it is important to keep lesson appointments. If you are unable to keep a lesson appointment for other reasons, please give me at least 24 hours notice. Otherwise, I will request full payment for a missed lesson unless we can reschedule that same week. I know that there are occasional personal emergencies that come up for which you may need to cancel on short notice. I understand this, and just ask that you be respectful of the fact that teaching guitar is the way in which I make my living. (If our lesson is shortened due to connectivity issues beyond our control, I'm happy to work with you to re-schedule at a "better-connected" time.)

I look forward to working and playing with you!

Cindy

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