



Classical Guitar Instrumental Update Summer

Hello everyone! We hope that you are enjoying the warm summer and that you are all staying positive and cheerful. We hope that you have been keeping up with your musical studies but we wanted to send you some extra ideas and tips to keep you motivated in your practice. Please follow our Musica Kirklees Facebook pages and our Twitter feed for lots of extra music to listen to especially our #musicakirkleesathome performances.

FOCUS OF THE WEEK – SCALES

What are the benefits of learning scales and why do I have to play scales for my grade exam?

Scales are a collection of notes that form the foundations for all the music we learn. They teach us about key and tonality and we can use them to understand our music better. Scales help us to improve our technique by developing finger dexterity, strength and co-ordination and they will help you to get to know your fretboard well and can even help you to focus on other aspects of your playing like tone, articulation, rhythm, expression and dynamics too. They also help you with memory skills and learning patterns. 10 minutes of careful scale practice every day will set you up to be a super player!

One of the first scales we learn on guitar is G major. Start off with some micro scales (three note scales) like G A B and then do G A B C D. After that you can easily move on to a full G major scale G A B C D E F# G.

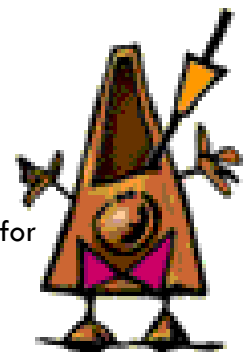
Ms Crosby's worksheet will give you some tips on how to start learning your G major scale with some bonus pieces Mother's Washing and Once a Man Fell in a Well. Click on the links or find it on our website. [Sheet Music/Worksheet PDF](#) [Backing Track mp3](#)

Try playing your scales with a metronome (you can get free ones as apps online) or some of you may have an old wind up metronome at home.

Set your metronome to 76 beats a minute and try play your notes exactly in time to the click. Playing your scales to a repeated note is a good way to get your pulse really accurate. Experiment with the speed and remember it is always better to play something slower and well than too fast.

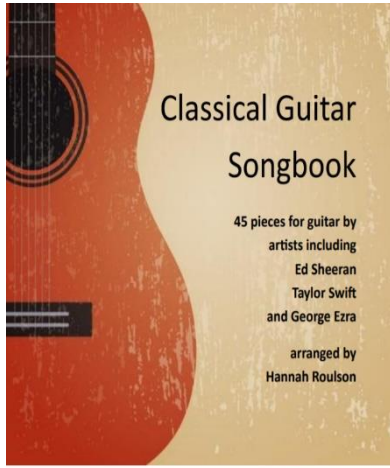
There is also a Creepy Crawly Chromatics activity with and E Chromatic Scale that you might like to try as well. It would be fun to see how many different versions of that you can make. <https://youtu.be/Nag8Hz3dlyU> takes you to the first of two videos and all the resources you need for this

If you are working towards a grade exam you should ensure you have the appropriate book - either ABRSM or Trinity (most likely) - and start learning the ones for the required grade. By making up imaginative rhythms and adding extra effects like staccato notes and dynamic contrasts we can make the whole memorising process fun and not too daunting later when we need them for the exam.



Next time you play a piece of music see if you can work out which scale all the notes are from and that will tell you what key the piece of music is in.

Good luck everyone!



If you are new looking for some tunes to play there is a free compilation to download of well-known film themes and melodies from the world of pop in Miss Roulson's [Classical Guitar Songbook](#). We're sure you'll have fun browsing through all the pieces.

If it is your bass notes you are looking to brush up on try Ms Eady's [Bass Bass Bass](#), a collection of bass note tunes. This includes Jaws, James Bond, Another One Bites the Dust, Addams Family and In the Hall of the Mountain King as well as an E Chromatic Scale to keep to our theme!



HAVE A LISTEN TO XUEFEI YANG PLAYING AUSTURIAS LEYENDA.

<https://youtu.be/Fd7RsG2bj6c>

This piece of music is one of the most famous works in the guitar repertoire. It is very reminiscent of Spain and was written by Isaac Albeniz in the late 1800s for piano but was transcribed later for the guitar.



What popular style of Spanish Folk Music is it based on?

How many sections is this piece in? Can you identify any of the contrasting features?

Can you hear some of the different effects created by the way the guitar is being played?

Can you hear the dynamic changes? (How loud or quiet it is).

We would love to see what you have all been playing. You may have learned some really cool pieces or even written your own song, so why not keep in touch by sending your work via video or audio recording to your teacher or via facebook [#musicakirkleesathome](#).

