



## Classical Guitar Instrumental Update Summer



Hello everyone! How have you been getting along with your guitar playing? We really have missed being able to teach you all in person and can't wait to see you all! You will have noticed that we have been adding lots of exciting tutorial videos, worksheets and activities to our website. So whatever standard you are we hope that there will be something for everyone to try. We hope that this guitar update will give you extra ideas and tips to keep you motivated in your practise. Also, if you would like to send us a video of your amazing playing that would be you can send it as a direct message to the Musica Kirklees Facebook page #musicakirkleesathome. We would love to see how you are all doing!

### USING VIDEO TO IMPROVE MY PLAYING!!!!!!!

**Lots of the activities on our website involve playing along with a backing track or video**

Before you start try to make sure you are in tune. See [https://youtu.be/nw4rHG\\_ZT-A](https://youtu.be/nw4rHG_ZT-A) for more help with this.

Choose one of the pieces on our <https://www.musicakirklees.org/resources-for-classical-guitar> that is within your ability level and have a listen to the video tutorial or backing track before you start to play. Some of the activities have some sheet music or a worksheet to go with them so look out for those too and print them out so you can to keep them. Here are a few of the things on our website page to get you started.

Beginner videos for younger players with a small note range G A B include:  
We Love String Three, Hot X Buns, Merrily and By the Light of the Moon.

Move on to Once a Man Fell in a Well and Mother's Washing if you know G A B C D or Rain Rain

For something a bit harder using all the treble string notes you should look at Birdsong.

More intermediate standard players should have a look at the Sakura video and worksheets.

We have some ensemble music too for students to try; Purple Heather and Lascia Ch'io Panga with the backing tracks or Melancholy March which has 5 easy parts if you are a beginner.

It is good to learn a piece in phrases or in small manageable chunks and build up until you have learned it all. Look at the trickiest bits and practice those the most. When you play to an accompaniment of any kind it is important that you play at the same speed as the track and keep to the beat. Once you feel confident try to play at the same time as the video or backing track. Listen to the count in and then start. Don't be put off if you go wrong the first few times. Just try to keep going.

**You can do it!**

### THE ULTIMATE CLASSICAL GUITAR QUIZ!

**Test your musical knowledge and theory skills with this fiendishly fun set of questions for classical guitarists. Ideal practice for anyone wanting to brush up their skills or working towards a music exam. Aimed at students initial to grade 3 level but fun for all to try!**

[https://www.musicakirklees.org/get/file//content\\_media/5eac0928b1e3a\\_The\\_Ultimate\\_Guitar\\_Quiz\\_Grades\\_Intital-3\\_.pdf](https://www.musicakirklees.org/get/file//content_media/5eac0928b1e3a_The_Ultimate_Guitar_Quiz_Grades_Intital-3_.pdf)

## A good practise routine always starts with a great warm up!

Warm ups are an opportunity to work on your technique so sit really nicely on a proper chair (not the sofa) with your footstool under your left foot. There are lots of video warm ups on our website to help you with warm ups

You should always practise your walking fingers on your open strings and work your way up to playing scales using repeated notes on a rhythm. Exam standard pupils can carry on memorising their scales. We can look at some more scales next time!

Try some of the left-hand exercises where you hold C on string 2 and reach for D without taking the C off. This exercise works on other strings as well.

Try free stroke exercises holding all your fingers on the correct strings and playing with pima in your right hand.



Have a listen to Vince Carrola's version of Africa by Toto.

<https://youtu.be/jhdcxbiMqic>

Here are a few things to listen for...



## MANY OF YOU PLAY IN ONE OR MORE OF OUR FABULOUS MUSIC CENTRE GUITAR ENSEMBLES.

Can you hear some of the different effects created by the way the guitars are being played?

Can you hear the dynamic changes? That means loud and quiet.

Is it in a major or a minor key?

You might like to listen to other versions on this piece. It's a popular piece for choirs too!



## Create your own pieces and songs



One of the brilliant things about learning an instrument is being able to make up your own pieces. There are lots of activities and worksheets on our website where you can learn to improvise or compose your own piece of music to play. Feel free to look at the acoustic guitar pages too!

If you are a beginner composer the key to success is to start simply with a little rhythmic idea and play it with a few of the notes that you already know. If you want to write a song you might choose a couple of easy chords to strum and add some lyrics. Don't be afraid to experiment until you find an idea you like and then play it over and over to make it as good as it can be.

You might opt to play along to a backing track or record yourself when you have a really good idea.

Some people like to write their music down so that others can play it too!  
**JUST HAVE FUN!!**

