

Take The First Step: Choosing The Right Guitar Teacher

So you've decided to try music lessons, Congratulations! Having the right plan of attack is one of the most INTEGRAL parts of becoming a great guitar player and by making the decision to start taking guitar lessons you've taken the first step towards your musical dreams! But if you've ever tried guitar lessons before or even watched online videos you'll definitely know that just like guitar players, not all teachers are alike. How do you pick the right one? Choosing the right guitar teacher can be a daunting task. This one went to Berklee, THIS one has 30 years of teaching experience, THIS one only charges 20 dollars an hour!

Well, let's start with the basics. Finding someone with good knowledge of the music industry is a hell of a lot easier than trying to learn from guitar books and CD's especially considering that neither books nor CD's can really answer your questions when you really need them to. Unfortunately, having good knowledge does not translate to being a good teacher. If you ask your teacher what their field of study was, they will often tell you things such as Music Composition or Music History, And while this is all good knowledge to have, none of it actually helps you to learn how to teach these concepts to other people. Or even how to help someone teach themselves so they can continue to learn EVEN when they don't have a teacher around to help them

Have you ever seen those shows where the rocket scientists get to come out and talk about how they built the jet engine's CO2 combustion rockets and you're just sitting there like "huh?" It works the same way with lessons. Let's say you do manage to find a good teacher. Let's say you manage to find someone Who went to Berklee, has been teaching for over 30 years and only charges 20\$ a lesson. On top of all of that, They're only fifteen minutes away!

Well let me just say that first of all 20\$ is way too low to be charging for lessons. Especially if you went to college. Not just Berklee. I fear for any teacher who values their lessons and their time with their students to be this low. Why? Because ANY teacher who values themselves and their time so low cannot POSSIBLY add value to their students. And what does that mean? THEY stop learning! They stop studying! They stop saying "Hey I'm going to go out and learn this thing" They START saying "Oh I went to college, I already know that."

Think about it, what would your highschool teacher say if you just looked them in the eyes one day and said "You know what? I've learned everything I possibly have to learn. I've done everything there is to do. I'm going to stop learning now." What would they do? They'd probably have a heart attack right?

Now imagine going to college, spending 100,000\$ of YOUR OWN MONEY getting a C+ Average in all your classes and then saying the same thing. Crazy, I know, but I have met actual people like this, who're still trying to claw their way out of debt to this day. How much value do you think they offer to their students? Well I can tell you right now it's going to be a lot less than 100,000\$

If you could go to ANY school in the WORLD, DIME Denver Berklee, The Musician's Institute of LA. Where would you go? I'm guessing you'd go to community college right? NO! You'd go to literally ANY other college, why? Because of the value they bring you. It doesn't matter HOW good that teacher is, if they're only charging \$20 a lesson, they're NEVER going to be able to bring VALUE to you. They're never going to take you to a guitar clinic. They're NEVER going to be able to buy the recording equipment to teach you how to master tracking. In short, you get what you pay for. I'm not saying to go for the most expensive guitar teacher you can find, but i'm definitely telling you to think about the value you're getting from what you're paying for, is it worth it? Or is it time to find someone who can add a little more value to you?

GOOD teachers know their faults, and know how to gather information to overcome those faults. I will gladly tell you.- I'm a metal teacher, i couldn't teach you a thing about fingerpicking, and if I tried i'd probably make a disgrace of myself, my mother, and every guitarist in the history of fingerpicking, BUT as a professional in the music industry I've met and worked with plenty of people COULD teach you that,

In short when it comes to finding yourself the right guitar teacher, age is just a number, cheaper isn't always better and not every teacher wants for you what you want for yourself, find someone who focuses on your goals, find someone who adds value to you, and most importantly, look for a place where you can have fun! The road to musical mastery is a long one, and you're never going to make it if you don't enjoy the process

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