

Course Content - Guitar

Historical Facts about the Guitar

- Modern guitars evolved from the lute, a stringed instrument dating way back to the ancient Greeks and Arabs
- In the 1800's, a Spanish craftsman named Antonio de Torres Jurado started building guitars that are a lot like the modern classical and acoustic guitars of today
- Guitars became very popular in America thanks to all the blues and jazz musicians
- Inventors tried all kinds of ways to build louder guitars, but it wasn't until the invention of the transistor radio and magnetic recording devices called "pick-ups" that a louder guitar would be possible
- Pickups were like little microphones that could attach to the body of the guitar... and transistors were electronic inventions that made amplifiers possible
- George Beauchamp and Adolph Rickenbacker, invented their electric guitar in 1931.
- Orville Gibson and his guitar company worked with Les Paul and together they created a solid body electric guitar
- The two biggest guitar companies making electric solid body guitars are Fender and Gibson

Guitar Types

- Acoustic classical or 'Spanish' guitar with nylon strings
- Acoustic or 'folk' guitar with steel strings.
- Twelve string acoustic
- Hollow body acoustic/electric guitar
- Resonator guitar or Dobro
- Fender Stratocaster electric guitar

Music in Life Lesson:

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is "Moonshadow" by Cat Stevens. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think, and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

Guitar Parts

- **Acoustic Guitar:** hollow body, soundboard, strings, neck, fret board, bridge, machine heads
- **Electric Guitar:** solid body, soundboard, strings, neck, fret board, bridge, machine heads, pickups, faceplate, toggle switch, volume knob, output jack

Highlighted Famous Guitarists

- **Les Paul:** Les was not only an amazing guitar player but also a brilliant inventor. He worked with Orville Gibson to create the first solid body electric guitar
- **Charlie Christian:** Was one of the first performers to really wow jazz and bebop fans with the *electric* guitar
- **Andres Segovia:** Is one of the most famous Spanish style guitarists of all time
- **Robert Johnson:** Was an American blues singer and musician - considered to be the 'master of the blues'
- **Bill Hayley:** A rock and roll guitarist – he was a leader in the growth and popularity of Rock n Roll during the 50's
- **Sister Rosetta Tharpe:** A pioneer of electric guitar by mixing gospel and rock
- **Jimi Hendrix:** He was a creative genius on electric guitar and really smart about the way he used sound and volume
- **Jimmy Page:** Is one of the greatest guitar players of all time
- **Joni Mitchell:** She was known for the interesting ways she would tune her guitar to play songs. She mixed jazz, with rock and roll, R&B, and even classical music
- **BB King:** Was the king of blues. His style of guitar playing has been a big influence on many of today's blues artists
- **Jennifer Batten:** An amazing studio and stage guitar player who played for Michael Jackson's World Tours and Jeff Beck
- **Carlos Santana:** Is a Mexican and American musician who became famous by mixing rock and Latin American music
- **Bonnie Raitt:** Is an American blues-rock singer-songwriter and slide guitar player
- **Adrian Belew:** Known for the unusual sounds he creates on guitar. Sometimes his guitars sound like animals or machines
- **Ann and Nancy Wilson:** Are sisters who play awesome guitar rock n' roll. They formed the band Heart in the mid 1970's. Over the years they've had some huge hits and some classic guitar songs