

RON PETERS ♦ GUITAR INSTRUCTION

February 2010

Dear Students and Parents,

First I would like to congratulate you for choosing to study music and learn to play the guitar. It is truly an awesome thing to do for yourself. Whether you want to just strum a few chords or you want to become a master player, it can be a lifelong endeavor and faithful companion.

As your teacher, I bring more than 30 years of professional experience to your lessons, making me uniquely qualified to show you the path to success. To find out more about me, visit my website: www.ronpetersguitar.com

Location:

All lessons will take place in my studio located upstairs at Mills Music, 10120 Main Street, Bothell, Washington 98011.

First Lesson:

Once we agree to a specific day and time, that will be your lesson time from then on unless we mutually agree to change it. When you come in for that first lesson I like to spend some time just talking and getting acquainted as I think the best learning comes when we are both relaxed and in rapport. You may also have questions you would like to ask me and I welcome your questions. I will also discuss curriculum (books, handouts), and generally chart a course for us to follow. Also, this is the time that I will inspect your instrument to make sure it is in good repair and adjusted properly. From the second lesson on is when the process really begins. We will “dive in” to the materials and begin our studies in earnest.

Instruments:

If you own your own instrument, I will inspect it at the first lesson to make sure it is in good playable condition. It doesn't need to be expensive, just playable. I will inform you of any problems with your instrument and recommend any action to take. Guitars and basses are very intricate and must be set up properly to play well. You will be much more successful with a properly adjusted instrument. If you don't have your own instrument, one can be rented or purchased at Mills Music. Please buy/rent from a reputable musical instrument retailer and not from Costco or other department stores. The instruments they sell are inferior.

Practice:

Beginners should practice 15 to 20 minutes per day, every day. The amount of time needed will increase as you improve. Intermediate/Advanced players should put as much time into practicing as time and desire allows. Perhaps ½ hour to 1 hour per day or more. Also, try to practice at the same time every day to create good practice habits. Putting in some time every day will get you better results than cramming in 2 or 3 hours the day before your lesson. Consistency and regularity are the keys to musical success.

Payment:

I try to keep my rates reasonably steady, but they are subject to occasional changes as my expenses rise. Currently, tuition for lessons is **\$30 per half-hour, paid monthly** at the first lesson of every month. Usually, there will be four weeks' worth of lessons over the course of a month, which works out to \$120.00, again, payable the first week. Every once in a while the calendar gives us an extra week which will cause the tuition to be \$150 for that month, unless I opt out of the 5th lesson due to performances or other commitments. You will receive ample notice in such an event.

Late Payment:

While it is my responsibility to be present and ready for your lesson at our agreed time, your responsibility is to show up on time for the weekly lesson and pay the monthly tuition on the first lesson of every month. Most people do this without question. A few people, however, have made it necessary for me to institute a...

Late Payment Policy: *If you cannot pay on the first lesson of the month, please see me to make special arrangements or I will have to charge a **late fee of \$ 5.00/week**, accruable until payment is received. If no payment has been received by the third lesson of the month, your lessons will be suspended and you will lose your time slot on my schedule. If I receive a check from you which is dishonored by my bank due to insufficient funds, you will be held responsible for all related bank processing expenses; **late fees, as described above, will also be applied.***

Summer:

Your lessons will continue as normal through the summer. However, since summer is the time of vacations, I am somewhat more forgiving about scheduling. That is, if you have a family vacation or other travel plans, please let me know at the beginning of the month or within two weeks of departing and I will only charge you for the lessons you receive that month. Also, I teach at several different summer music camps that require me to be gone for a week at a time. I am usually gone to camp for at least one week in June, July and August. I also try to schedule a family vacation that usually occurs in July or August which can result in more than one week off in that month. Again, I will arrange a make-up lesson for any missed lessons or you will not be charged. Each year is a bit different and I will keep you informed as summer plans begin to unfold.

Cancellations:

Your tuition reserves your specific lesson time and is difficult to fill if you can't make it. Therefore, lessons missed due to student cancellations for **any reason** are forfeited and cannot be credited or refunded. I am open to make-up lessons, (within 10 days), but these are purely a courtesy and are subject to schedule availability. If I have to cancel your regularly scheduled lesson, I will try to find a make-up slot for you that is mutually agreeable. If we cannot find a time that works I will issue you a one lesson credit to be applied to the next month's tuition.

Contact:

If you need to speak to me for any reason, please feel free to contact me through the contact page on my website or directly on my cell phone at: (206) 779-7379. I also have a voicemail box at Mills Music at: (425) 486-5000 x161, but my cell phone is usually with me and is the easiest and best way to reach me.

Thank for selecting me to be your guitar/bass/music teacher. I look forward to a long and fruitful teacher/student relationship with you. Many of my students have stayed with me for many years. Some have even gone on to enroll in music school or to major in music at colleges and universities. Your study of guitar will hopefully be a rich and fulfilling experience that will bring you a lifetime of pleasure and satisfaction.

Cordially,

Ron Peters