

Music 1 (Guitar) - Week 2

A. Listening Exercises

Since we do not yet have guitars in our hands, this is a great opportunity to expand our musical horizons and come in contact with new styles of music featuring guitar playing. The selections below are very different from each other, and each track features guitar playing that is quite unique from the others.

For each of the following pieces of music, consider the questions below. Write your responses in paragraph form, with at least one paragraph per piece.

- Describe the song. What does it sound like? How does it make you feel? What does it cause you to think about?
- What do you like and/or dislike about this song in general?
- What do you think the musician(s) wanted to communicate?
- Describe the guitar playing.
- What do you like and/or dislike about the guitar playing in this song?
- How is the guitar playing different from and similar to the other pieces you were assigned?

Blind Willie Johnson (Blues): <https://youtu.be/qePHCNoEtqQ>

Booker T. & the M.G.'s (R&B/Funk): https://youtu.be/_bpS-cOBK6Q

Dick Dale (Surf Rock): https://youtu.be/-y3h9p_c5-M

Andrés Segovia (Classical/Spanish): <https://youtu.be/9dqzGgMnypw>

Wes Montgomery (Jazz): https://youtu.be/MOm17yw__6U

Vàli (European Folk): <https://youtu.be/o9JH4IIJlyU>

-This last link is to a complete album. You may stop listening any time after the first song is finished.

B. Music Vocabulary

We will be using these terms, and more, throughout the year. Your understanding of them will greatly increase as we apply them in our playing and practice. For now, please study this vocabulary list and memorize the definitions of these concepts so that we can have a common language to use in class when discussing music.

*** We will be having a vocabulary test on these terms in our first class meeting of next week. ***

Accent - Emphasis on a note or beat.

Chord - Three or more notes picked or strummed simultaneously.

Chord progression - A string of chords played in succession.

Chorus (of a tune) - Strictly speaking, the portion of a song lyric or melody that is repeated, often with other voices joining in.

Consonance - Groups of tones that are harmonious when sounded together as in a chord.

Dissonance - Harsh, discordant, and lacking harmony.

Dynamics - Pertaining to the loudness or softness of a musical composition.

Fingerstyle - Playing with the fingernails or fingertips with or without fingerpicks as opposed to playing with a flatpick.

Flatpick - A triangular or teardrop-shaped piece of nylon or plastic used to pluck or strum guitar strings. Flatpicks are available in a large variety of shapes, sizes, and thickness. Often simply called a "pick."

Harmony - Pleasing combination of two or three tones played together in the background while a melody is being played.

Interval - The distance between two notes.

Lead guitar - The part played by a guitar soloist in a band.

Melody - A sequence of single notes. Often referred to as the "tune" of a song.

Picking - Plucking or producing a sound on the guitar in general, either with the fingers or a flatpick.

Pitch - The frequency of a note determining how high or low it sounds.

Rhythm guitar - Rhythmic strumming of chord backup for a lead player, singer, or ensemble.

Slide - A plastic or glass tube placed over the third or fourth finger of the left hand and used to play "slide" or glissando effects in rock and blues and other forms of traditional music.

Strumming - Performed with a pick or the fingers. Generally consists of brushing across 2-6 strings in a rhythmic up and down fashion appropriate to the tune being played.

Tempo - The speed at which a piece of music is played.

Timbre - Also called "tone color", this is the quality of sound that distinguishes one instrument from another.

Tuning - The raising and lowering a pitch of an instrument to produce the correct tone of a note.

Virtuoso - A person with notable technical skill in the performance of music.