

FOLSOM CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Master Guitar Ensembles

Date: January 2011

Subject Area: Visual and Performing Arts

Proposed Grade Level(s): 9th - 12th

Course Length: One Year

Grading: A-F

Number of Credits: 5 per Semester

Subject Area Credit: Fine Arts

Prerequisites: Previous guitar course or instructor consent.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Master Guitar Ensembles is a performing arts class where the emphasis is on performance. Students will be performing various repertoires that are found in guitar ensembles or guitar orchestras. Students will further their study of the many styles and techniques that are found in guitar playing. Music students will be able to expand their knowledge and technique by being part of this larger ensemble as well as smaller ensembles. This course is designed to provide continuing and more challenging musical instruction to new and existing music students. This course will present a strong emphasis on live performance, improvising, song writing, song arranging, composing, and recording. Students will continue to read music notation, guitar tablature, play chords, accompany other musicians, as well as improvise. Students will also learn advanced music theory that accompanies being a successful guitarist at a more advanced level. The course will also continue to present the history of the guitar, its significance in the music world, and how the instrument is featured in many of the music cultures around the world. Students will be able to further grow and explore through the guitar curriculum by performing in small ensembles that are relevant to the guitar player.

GENERAL GOALS/PURPOSES:

- Students will read about, write about, talk about, and reflect upon topics pertaining to the guitar.
- Students will learn more about the history of the guitar, the musicians, bands, and artists who have made an impact on the guitar-world.
- Students will work as a class, independently and collaboratively in learning about the guitar.
- Students will learn how to apply chords, note-reading, tablature, and the technical skills that are needed in playing the guitar.
- Students will learn more advanced music theory that pertains to successful guitar playing, improvisation, creating melodies, and composing.
- Students will learn advanced song-writing skills.
- Students will analyze and compare the different styles of guitar playing found in our music world.
- Students will learn about career possibilities related to the guitar.
- Students will develop creative skills in problem solving, communication and time management.
- Students will learn the music concepts and vocabulary of guitar playing in order to write about, read about, and discuss with fellow students.
- Students will use many of today's music technology in aiding them to become successful guitar players and musicians (Pro-Tools studio, MIDI, guitar pods, amplifiers, notation/tablatore software, internet sites).
- Students will acquire the discipline of regular individual practice.
- Students will learn how to play successfully at an advanced level in a guitar ensemble.

STUDENT READING COMPONENT:

- Students will be assigned readings from an array of sources including method books, guitar-related magazines/publications, and internet sites/articles.

- Students will be required to follow written instructions on assignments and projects.

STUDENT WRITING COMPONENT:

- Students will describe, analyze, critique and write about music selections that will be heard during class through “active listening” assignments.
- Students will compare and contrast the different styles found in many of the significant guitar players in the music world.
- Students will write an essay/research paper on a musician who is significant in the guitar-world.

STUDENT ORAL COMPONENT:

- Students will perform for each other the pieces of music that will be studied in class. Students will express and present the concepts being learned.
- Students will often work in groups- performing and presenting to the class an explanation of the process involved.
- Students will orally respond to musical pieces, examples, demonstrations, performances, etc. using vocabulary, concepts, and terms appropriate to guitar.
- Regular in-class discussions will be conducted in order to assess the student’s understanding of new concepts that have been introduced.

DETAILED UNITS OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Unit 1- Playing Technique

- Further develop left hand technique through more advanced chords, scales, solos, and melody.
- Further develop right hand technique: use of pick, finger picking, etc.
- Further study into a wider range of genres and styles found in the guitar world.
- Introduction and application to different types of tunings found in guitar playing from the blues to more contemporary styles of music.
- All varieties of guitars will be expected to be played ranging from classical, folk, to electric guitars.

2. Unit 2- Tone Production and Technique

- Proper “left-hand” technique to produce a clear and warm tone/sound.
- Proper strumming technique to produce the sound that is intended from the type of strum used.
- Master guitarists will experience the use of amplification, and the proper tone that is strived for.
- Master guitarists will also experience the use of effect pedals, and other amplification effects used in the guitar world.

3. Unit 3- Note Reading

- Continue to read, understand, and interpret, verbally or by playing the system of symbols used to indicate pitch through the use of standard notation; know appropriate clef sign.
- Continue to read, understand, and interpret, verbally or by playing the system of symbols used to indicate pitch through the use of guitar tablature.
- Application of positions in higher areas of the guitar neck.
- Continue to read, understand, and interpret, verbally or by playing, rhythm patterns which include whole notes, half-notes, dotted-half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes. Meters to be included: All duple meters, triple meters, 5/4, as well as mixed meters.

4. Unit 4- Chords & Accompaniment

- Continue to play a variety of chords ranging from open chords to all power and moveable bar chords
- Accompany other students in guitar ensembles by the use of chords learned.
- Inverted chords, jazz chords, chord melodies, double stops, and triads will be further studied and applied.

5. Unit 5- Technical Development

- a. Students will be able to further integrate all above skills learned to expressively produce music which is increasingly more accurate to intonation, rhythm, tone quality, and creativity relative to the level of skill and experience they have accumulated.
- b. Play songs in all major and minor keys.
- c. Further demonstrate clear and precise chord changes and strum patterns/styles.
- d. Further demonstrate knowledge of reading music notation and guitar tablature.

6. Unit 6- Music Theory

- a. Demonstrate advanced music theory knowledge all key areas.
- b. Demonstrate proficient knowledge in all modes.

7. Unit 7- Musical Heritage

- a. Further study the history of the guitar.
- b. Further understand the historical significance of music being studied/performed.
- c. Further study the stylistic differences of cultures and time periods.

8. Unit 8- Active Listening & Aesthetic Valuing

- a. Understand musical concepts found in listening assignments and examples.
- b. Critically evaluate other performances being studied/viewed/listened to.
- c. Form and defend their own judgments of various musical styles, composers, artists, and bands as they perform or listen to music.

9. Unit 9- Ensemble Playing

- a. Follow instructions from the director.
- b. Work as a unit within the ensemble and sub-groups of sections.
- c. Work individually.
- d. Work with others either in duets, trios, quartets, or other small guitar ensembles.
- e. Cooperate, show respect, and create a positive learning environment.
- f. Continue in more complex and demanding guitar ensemble performance.

10. Unit 10- Ear Training

- a. Further identify intervals in diatonic analysis.
- b. Further identify intervals in chromatic analysis.

11. Unit 11- Composing, Arranging, and Writing Songs

- a. Create their own compositions/songs by using proper chord relationships.
- b. Compose their own melodies and accompaniment.
- c. Perform music of other bands, artists, or musicians on the guitar.

12. Unit 12- Technology

- a. Students will be able to incorporate much of the useful technology that is found in successful guitar playing.
- b. Use guitar websites that aid in instruction.
- c. Use guitar software that aid in instruction.
- d. Use guitar pods and amplifiers (electric guitars).
- e. Record their performances digitally through Pro-Tools recording software.
- f. Create CDs and/or other formats of their guitar playing on their own.

SUBJECT AREA CONTENT STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. Artistic Perception

- a. To further introduce students to music notation, guitar tablature, and chords.
- b. To compare, analyze, and discuss the different styles of guitar playing found in our music world.

2. Creative Expression

- a. To apply instrumental music skills in performing a varied repertoire of music on the guitar.
- b. To compose and arrange music and improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments on the guitar.
- c. To perform individually and in small ensembles.
- d. To utilize modern technology, such as Pro-Tools recording software, and other guitar/music related software, to aid in creative expression, reflection, and assessment.
- e. To learn and apply music theory that will aid in creative guitar playing: the composing of melodies, solos, improvisations, and song-writing.

3. Historical and Cultural Context

- a. To analyze the role of the guitar in past and present cultures throughout the world, noting cultural diversity as it relates to music, musicians, and composers.
- b. To identify the significance of the guitar in the musical genres found in the United States, trace the evolution of those genres, and cite well-known musicians associated with them. (Country, Blues, Jazz, Rock, Pop, etc.)
- c. To perform music from various cultures and time periods on the guitar.

4. Aesthetic Valuing

- a. To respond, analyze, and make judgments about works of music associated with the guitar when listening/viewing music examples.
- b. To evaluate a performance, composition, arrangement, or improvisation/solo by comparing each with an exemplary guitar model.
- c. To describe the means used to create images or evoke feelings and emotions in musical works from various guitarists.

5. Connections, Relationships, and Applications

- a. To develop competencies and creative skills in problem solving, communication, and time-management that can be used to contribute to lifelong learning and career skills.
- b. To explore various careers in the areas pertaining to the guitar and music through research projects, technology, and in class exercises, assignments, and performances.

THIS COURSE WILL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE CAHSEE AND/OR CST'S:

Language Arts

LAB FEE, IF REQUIRED:

DISTRICT ESLRs TO BE ADDRESSED:

Students will be:

- **Self-Directed Learners:** Able to apply the significant musical concepts found in successful guitar playing. Students will use techniques learned in class to analyze and solve a variety of musical problems presented to them in class.
- **Effective Communicators:** Able to articulate with confidence the musical concepts and skills learned in the guitar class. Students will be able to discuss music viewed or listened to. As students learn these

concepts and skills, they will gain confidence that will help them be more self-assured and professional in other areas of their lives.

- **Quality Producers/Performers**: Able to develop an appreciation for the discipline required by the performing arts, thereby enhancing their work ethic and study skill. Students will be able to demonstrate creative ability and technique found in guitar playing.
- **Collaborative Workers**: Able to learn how to work together in small guitar ensembles as well as a class. Students will learn that they need to work together to perform guitar pieces, compose, and write songs, thereby enhancing their work ethic and study skills.
- **Constructive Thinkers**: Able to analyze their own performance and solve guitar playing problems, using techniques that they learn as the course progresses.
- **Responsible Citizens**: Able to demonstrate that their individual effort and participation is crucial in successful guitar playing. The students will also learn that all individual effort is essential to the group and/or any guitar ensemble's product.