

Student of the Month



Gage Barnes



A very big congratulations to our first student of the month, Gage Barnes! Gage has always been very diligent with his practicing, and has recently overcome some pretty tough obstacles including switching chords in time with a metronome, reading standard notation, and even the first steps in the dreaded idea of

barre chords. Things were a little tough, but he definitely persevered. Great job, Gage!



A Grand New Addition!

We're sure pretty much everyone has seen by now, but we are very pleased to announce that we now have a baby grand piano in our studio! Our piano students have definitely been progressing, so we figured we couldn't wait any longer. It wasn't our favorite thing to move, but we are very happy with it thus far! Students have really been loving it as well! A baby grand piano helps students learn the real artistry and nuances of piano playing. We can't wait to see what some of our students will be doing with it!

Level Up And Get A Free Month!

We have introduced a new program for the guitar students here at FMS! There are ten levels for the students who participate to go through. Every level has certain requirements and once the student meets all of those, he or she moves on to the next set of challenges. This program will not completely replace what students have been working on, but will give incentive to work on some of the fundamentals all guitar players need. Once a student completes all the requirements for Level 10 they'll earn a special gift (like a gift card to a place they like) but they'll also earn a free month of tuition! Our whole goal is to help create as many musicians as we can, and we think this program will help incentivize students to push past certain obstacles. We've already had a great response and have noticed a lot of students starting some friendly competitions and actually asking to work on things they had previously shown little interest in just so that they can advance a level! A copy of the levels will be attached with this newsletter.



Don't Forget About Our Gift Certificates!

FMS offers gift certificates so you can buy some lessons in advance for someone you may know. They make a great gift for people on the fence about starting a musical education. We've already had some interest from people looking to get some shopping for the holidays done early. If you are interested, just talk to your teacher and we can get one ready for you by your next lesson!

The Falls Music School

-Guitar Challenge-



Level 1

- Tuning the guitar
- Alternate Picking Exercise
- 1234 Exercise
- EZ Chords

Level 2

- Strumming with EZ Chords
- Arpeggios with EZ Chords (3 in book and 2 of your own!)
- C Major Scale
- 200 minutes of practice

Level 3

- 2 Songs from binder
- G Major Scale
- Be able to write chromatic scale
- 350 minutes of practice

Level 4

- 2 more easy songs
- Note reading (basic rhythms and notes on staff)
- Find notes on guitar (quiz)

Level 5

- 500 minutes of practice
- 3 new chords from master sheet
- Strumming Pattern #1 and variations

Level 6

- Minor Pentatonic Scale
- Blues shuffle
- Legato exercises
- 2 songs from standard notation

Level 7

- Bending exercises
- Vibrato exercises
- 3 new chords
- Closed position major scale
- 1000 minutes of practice

Level 8

- 3 new chords
- Write 3 of your own licks
- 2 more standard notation songs
- Strumming patterns 2 and 3

Level 9

- All open major, minor and 7 chords
- Barre Chords– E and A shape
- Fingerpicking exercise
- 1500 minutes of practice

Level 10

- 2000 minutes of practice
- Strumming Exercises with Barre Chords
- Interval and Fragment Scale exercises
- Complete solo from a recording



Jam Session Book

September, 2015

A note from Mike:

The idea behind these Jam Session books is to foster creativity among all Falls Music students as well as bring them together into one big learning community. Students get a sense of accomplishment from seeing their creative ideas written out, but they can also learn ideas from other students of all ages and styles that they may normally not have any connection with.

The musical ideas that follow are all made possible from the hard work and creative spirit we find from so many of our students here at FMS, and we hope to see them all shared among family and friends.

If anyone has any questions or ideas regarding these books, please don't hesitate to contact me! I hope everyone enjoys seeing and learning from these ideas as much as I, and everyone here at FMS, has enjoyed helping students get their musical minds churning and having the results printed here.

Thanks,
Mike Lowden
Guitar Instructor, Co-Owner
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Jam Session September, 2015



Damien's Blues

Style: Blues Musical Concept: E Blues Scale

What a cool lick that really utilizes that special "blue note" we add to the minor pentatonic scale to make it sound so much more bluesy!

Ellie's Chord Progression

Style: Acoustic Rock Musical Concept: Open Chords

Ellie put together a very awesome chord progression. She learned which chords work in certain keys and decided to try and combine them. For the top 3, she was thinking of C Major, and for the bottom 3, she was thinking G. Play them in the order you would normally read and they still end up flowing together very well. Awesome job, Ellie!

Sam's Rundowns

Style: Acoustic Musical Concept: Arpeggios

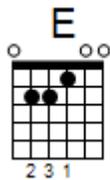
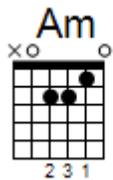
A very great job from one of our newest students here at FMS!

Jam Session September, 2015



Damien's Progression

Style: Chord Musical Concept: Harmonic Minor Chords



Damien came up with another great progression! This time we have a bit of an exotic flare by taking chords from the A Harmonic Minor Scale! Very cool.

Rose's Arpeggio

Style: Acoustic Musical Concept: Arpeggios

Rose is a fairly new student here at FMS, so as always we immediately got her into a creative mode. This is the arpeggio that she came up with! Definitely pretty cool for her first musical piece.

Natalie's Chord Progression

Style: Singer-Songwriter Musical Concept: Chords

Natalie is also a pretty new student here at FMS, and right away she got to piecing some chords together! She even came up with the strumming pattern all on her own!

Jam Session September, 2015



Gustavo's 6/8

Style: Acoustic Musical Concept: Arpeggios

Gustavo came up with a pretty great arpeggio pattern! This one is in 6/8 and is a bit tricky for your right hand. He also chose to do C-G7-G rather than the normal G-G7-C.

Ellie's Rock Lick

Style: Rock Musical Concept: Major Pentatonic Modes

Ellie came up with this really cool lick for her new band! It takes the classic E Minor Pentatonic scale, but starts it from the 7th position, making it the 4th mode of the scale. Advanced stuff!

Dakota's Drop D

Style: Metal Musical Concept: Drop D Power Chords

Dakota has been experimenting with some alternate tunings, and like every guitarist, first decided to try his hand at Drop D. Check out this cool riff that he came up with! This one also has a cool Phrygian sound! Make sure to tune your low string down to D though!