

Adult Guitar Camp 2024 Courses

Here are the classes you can look forward to at Smithers' Adult Guitar Camp August 10-15. Classes are held daily, four days from Sunday through Wednesday. On Saturday night August 10, Camp Registrants will have the opportunity after dinner to hear the instructors describe and demonstrate teachings of their class in a concert. Classes may be subject to change.

LINDA MCRAE

Songwriting Stuff That Works:

Has your creativity dried up and blown away? We'll try a raft of tips and tricks to get things flowing again. This will be my last year teaching at camp, so I hope you'll join me.

Performance Workshop:

Lions, Tigers and Bears Oh My: Let me help you build confidence and connect with what you are singing about. We'll explore ways to get "inside" the song and help take your listener on a journey.

Chart Writing: Charts? Do We Need "Em? MINI COURSE

You bet we do? Planning on playing at Guitar Camp Karaoke night? This workshop is for you. Not having a chart for the band to follow is like driving a car with no steering wheel! In this workshop we'll learn the how's, why's and wherefores of writing a basic chord chart for your songs. Its easy and pretty important to know how to do.

RICK FINES

Shufflin' Along

We're going to explore the shuffle rhythms that drive some of your favourite songs and learn a few ways to play them. These are great tools to have to provide variety to your song catalogue. There will be simple, standard shuffle rhythm guitar techniques for everyone and some more advanced techniques for the more advanced accompanist.

Right Hand Techniques

We'll look at fingerstyle techniques that can add a lot of variety to your playing. Some players will be able to learn all these techniques in the time we have and some will leave with plenty to work on for the year ahead.

Patti Powell

Rank Beginners – EASY SONGS FOR BEGINNER GUITAR

Just starting to play guitar? Playing and understanding how the guitar works and then learn some easy songs to really get you going.

Let's Harmonize!

YES!! It's back! The wonderful joy of singing. Patti will lead you through various songs and techniques singing in harmony and groups. Brush and tap accompaniment by Richard.

MARK THIBEAULT

Anatomy of a song

We will take a song of a particular genre and discuss the nuances of that style while learning all parts of the song including chords, solo, bass line and vocals. The class will then put the pieces together as a group.

Outside The Box

In this course we will explore the emotive qualities of the instrument. Through playful and fun exercise, we will learn techniques to incorporate into our playing to make our playing more dynamic and expressive. The class will collectively compose a piece of music to perform using these techniques.

BEN BROOKES

Know Your Fret Board:

Fret board tricks and tips, find notes with ease, play chords in other places, develop octave patterns experiment with intervals. Play modally outside the blues scale. A mixed bag of fret board tricks, tips and theory info that will increase your musical understanding of the whole fret board. Beginner /Intermediate

Rhythm, Rhythm, Rhythm:

Are you stuck in a rhythm rut? Then this course will help you reset your internal rhythm clock. Investigate new strum patterns, finger picking and flat-picking patterns, muting and polyrhythms. Learn about time signatures and playing against a beat. Explore some songs that are slightly more rhythmically challenging. Let your guitar do some dancing. Available to all skill levels.

RICHARD JENNE

Hand Drums et al:

This class will be a fun exploration of the world of percussion and rhythm.

It is open to everybody – beginners and beyond. Starting with a few general exercises, we will then add some of the most commonly used percussion instruments—shakers, tambourines, cowbells, woodblocks etc., and the hand drum family—djembe, cajon, etc.

We will explore some of the main foundation rhythms from the various acoustic traditions as well as classic swing rhythms for the snare drum/ suitcase. If you have brushes, please bring them to class.

ALLAN CORMIER

Ukelele, Twists and More

"Ukulele Twists and more! Together we will explore the wide world the Ukulele offers. We will work on an ensemble piece and learn some new songs. Giving you something to enjoy at camp and to take home with you to expand your musical journey!"

SCOTT ATCHISON

Confessions of a Serial Campfire Jambuster

Introduction to the Art of Jamming with others. This course Will focus on tips and tricks to develop and hone your guitar skills around the campfire. We will learn and discuss the etiquette of jamming, focusing on tuning, song selection, simple chord progressions, how to lead a song and the importance of tempo, rhythm, and dynamics. Throughout the week we Will build a collection of “go-to” jam tunes to help you immerse yourself in the world of jamming with others.

Intro to Swing

No, no...not the kind where y'all put your keys in a bowl...

Are you stuck in a strumming slump? Are you ready to reinvent your rhythmic realm of possibilities? Well, join us for an introduction to the world of swing guitar! During the course, you will be introduced to various styles of the swing genre, including swing jazz, blues, western swing, and gypsy jazz. We will touch on common chord shapes, chord inversions, progressions, and rhythmic techniques used to create this lively style. The class will work together on several standard swing tunes as a group exercise.

GEORGE STOKES – Sound Technician

Musicians may at some point need to use a sound system. This mini course can be tailored to the needs of the participants depending on their existing level of expertise. Things we can delve into can be familiarization with different types of microphones, sound board controls, sound basics do's and don'ts, frequency identification and control, and hands on with the console and system. Every musician owes it to themselves to be familiar with sound so that when using a system, they can use their knowledge to make the experience as positive and smooth as possible.

TAYLOR POFFENROTH – Sound, Audio and Recording Technician

All the concerts will be recorded with sound and audio so you won't have to use your cell phone! George and Taylor will be working together for all concerts including Karaoke.

Taylor will have his recording studio set up so you can record a favourite song of yours or with someone else of a group. Possibilities are endless. You will receive your recording to take home with you.

See Mini Courses next page.

Mini Courses 3:30 – 5:00 (Before Dinner Specials)

Sunday

D1: Linda – Chart Writing- Learn to write your own chart for Karaoke night and any other time.

D2: Richard – Drumming Acoustic Accompaniment

Monday

D3: Linda McRae – Co-Writing

Calling all writers! Are you a songwriter who has never written with anyone else but would like to try? Are you a writer but don't play an instrument? Do you play an instrument but find it really hard to write the words? Do you just want to find some new ideas lyrically and/or musically? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then this class is for you! Bring a pen or pencil and some paper and come do some co-writing.

D4: George – Learning how to use the sound equipment – see description under George Stokes

D5: Richard – Hand Drumming

Tuesday

D6: Ukelele with Allan

D7: Richard – Acoustic Hand drumming Review

Sunday/Monday/Tuesday

Recording with Taylor- Campers sign up for a recording of a favourite tune alone or accompanied by your choice. Book time during the day when you are not taking a course.

Wednesday No Mini Courses

Student Concert: All Camp students are encouraged to perform!