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Flamenco Maestro



STUDY PLAN

The best player is not that who studies most hours but the one who really understands and knows how to study efficiently.

Álvaro Antona

SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION



Learning to play flamenco guitar is not learning to play songs or pieces by famous guitarists. When we start to feel interest in flamenco music, we **always ask ourselves**

- Would it be possible for me to learn this music?
- How could I understand flamenco music?
- How should I start playing flamenco guitar?

At first sight, flamenco music, in our case flamenco guitar, appears to us as an unknown and **mysterious music**. Difficult to access and with cultural elements (sounds) very distant from the music we normally listen to.

These differences create in us an interest in the mysterious and unknown.

Flamenco is an artistic expression that starts from a popular folkloric expression. Its evolution through time, has led to the establishment of very marked **bases and structures** on which the interpreter (guitarist-singer-dancer) relies when performing or showing it in public.

Understanding these structures is the first step we need to take to introduce

ourselves to the flamenco guitar. Without understanding these musical structures, we can never play freely, and we will always be subject to a script.

We could say that these musical structures in flamenco are the same **as grammar in language**. Without understanding the grammar, we will never be able to speak freely. And we will never be able to communicate with other people.

These musical codes are the basis for understanding flamenco music. And we are going to base ourselves on them to develop our learning in flamenco guitar. But to be able to express these musical codes, we need to take a previous step.

"The technical development of the hands".

It is necessary to adapt our body to the flamenco guitar to obtain an optimal development when playing our guitar. Having a proper position, we will have a greater fluency when playing.

The technique in flamenco guitar is very important. We must pay all our attention to the **technical studies of the right hand** to be able to correctly execute each of the styles of the flamenco guitar.

If you are a beginner, the first part of the course will be based on the study of all flamenco guitar techniques. And if you have studied them before but don't feel you have the control, we will focus on perfecting them.

Once this process has been passed and all the techniques have been understood through different studies, we will concentrate on the study of the flamenco **"Palos" styles** and the structures on which they are based.

By following these steps, you will have a complete training from the beginning as a future guitarist.

LEVELS

According to your previous knowledge and skills in Flamenco while keeping in mind what you want to achieve, there are 3 different levels to choose in Flamenco Guitar Course: Beginner, Advanced or Accompaniment.



BEGINNER

Beginner level is focused on right hand techniques. This first step is the most important to learn flamenco guitar. This level includes:

- Right hand techniques:** rasgueados, picado, arpeggio, tremolo, thumb and alzapúa.
- Studies** of each of the techniques.
- Application** of the technique to the main flamenco rhythms.
- Basic principles of **flamenco styles**.

AVERAGE LENGTH : **8 LESSONS** (6 techniques + 2 reinforcement).

ADVANCED

Advanced level is focused on technical improvement and in-depth understanding of flamenco styles (palos) and their correct execution. This level includes:

- A review of each of the **techniques** and advanced studies to consolidate them.
- Analysis of the **flamenco styles** (palos) and the internal structures that work within each style.
- Creation of a flamenco **repertoire** based on the styles studied.
- Application of the **internal structures** of the styles to learn how they work.

AVERAGE LENGTH : **4 LESSONS PER EACH FLAMENCO STYLE**

(8 styles).

ACCOMPANIMENT

Accompaniment level is designed for those students who already master the styles and rhythms of flamenco, but who want to improve their skills in order to play along with singers and dancers. This level includes:

- Structures to accompany **cante** (singers).
- Structures for accompaniment **baile** (dancers).
- Harmony** applied to flamenco.
- Composition**.
- Improvisation** on flamenco guitar.

AVERAGE LENGTH : **4 LESSONS PER EACH FLAMENCO STYLE**

(8 styles).

OBJECTIVES

Anyone can begin their flamenco guitar studies **regardless of age or previous musical background**. Learning flamenco guitar is very different from any other musical style. Therefore, anyone, even if they have previous musical studies, will start from the beginning of technical adaptation. Obviously, if your musical training is more advanced, you will not have to start from scratch, and therefore the studies will be adapted to the level that you are able to assimilate.

The **general objectives** set for students of flamenco guitar who are going to take the course would be:

1. To know flamenco music as an artistic expression.
2. To develop and to know each one of the techniques of the right hand.
3. To develop and to know each of the techniques of the left hand.
4. Understanding of the structures and musical codes for a greater freedom in the interpretation of the styles learned.
5. To maintain an adequate body position and to value the mastery of the body and the mind to use with security the applied technique and to concentrate in the interpretation.
6. To progressively integrate the technical and rhythmic resources in each of the styles.
7. To understand each of the flamenco styles and their rhythmic application.
8. To develop a conscious listening through auditions programmed by the teacher.
9. To integrate the rhythm of the flamenco styles studied in the course as a fundamental basis for guitar development.
10. To demonstrate in a progressive way the musical knowledge for its further interpretation.
11. Development of the musical memory.
12. Development of the musical intuition in the flamenco guitar.
13. Interpretation of famous pieces composed by the most representative guitarists of the flamenco guitar.
14. to stimulate the interest of the student in his passion for flamenco music and his independence to investigate on his own.
15. To acquire self-control and technical mastery for the musical interpretation on the flamenco guitar.

CONTENTS



The contents of the flamenco guitar course will be **adapted to the level of the student**. Whether the student is a beginner or advanced, the contents will have different technical levels as well as different levels of difficulty when choosing the pieces to interpret. The **general contents** marked for the students of flamenco guitar who are going to take the course, would be:

1. Detailed analysis of flamenco guitar techniques.
2. Different levels of difficulty according to the level of the student.
3. Study of the rhythmic in the flamenco guitar and ways of execution.
4. Application of harmony in flamenco.
5. tructured study of the flamenco styles: from the main 'Palos' styles to the secondary 'Palos' styles.
6. Resolution of problems derived from the position of the hands and the technique of the flamenco guitar.
7. Study of the repertoire of the great masters.
8. Improvement of all the techniques and their rhythmic application through the "Palos" styles.
9. Auditions of different interpreters to contrast the information received in the course with the real staging of what has been learned.
10. Flamenco guitar accompaniment focused on singers and dancers.
11. Creation of a flamenco repertoire to show in public in a correct and structured way.

METHODOLOGY

The class methodology is **active and individualized**, adapted to each need and interest and where the student is the protagonist of his/her own learning, observing, participating, and experimenting by him/herself. It tries to be motivating, programming activities that are attractive and fully satisfactory to the student and that encourage him/her to continue advancing in the learning process.

The main objective is to **organize and order the contents** and teaching-learning activities that will be proposed in the classroom, according to the proposed objectives. However, the particularities of instrumental teaching mean that we must speak of flexible work units.

The **methodology for the students** of flamenco guitar who are going to take the course, would be:

- To place the student at the center of the educational program.
- To start from the student's previous knowledge from the guitarist to the general.
- To favor the motivation of the student of flamenco guitar.
- To stimulate creativity as a flamenco guitar performer.
- To develop the musical ear through interpretation.
- To develop the capacity to acquire significant learning.
- Correct organization of the time.
- Revision of the assimilated contents.
- General review of the themes once finished.

STUDY TECHNIQUES IN FLAMENCO GUITAR

It is essential to **organize the study time** to optimize the learning of flamenco guitar. Many students have difficulties to know the correct organization of the study time. This causes us to have bad habits and therefore our evolution as guitarists is slow and unproductive.

It is not about playing more hours. It is about **playing in an effective way**.

Having a good organization of your study time, you will observe day by day by yourself how your hands begin to have fluency, security, and independence to develop **the necessary mechanisms** that the flamenco guitar demands.

Considering your schedule, I will show you the best options to get the most out of your daily study with the flamenco guitar.

Some guidelines that can help you would be:

- Establish stable work habits in the form of routine and sequences.
- Set schedules and order priorities during the execution of the same.
- Pay attention to the need to rest between work sessions as part of the method.
- Maintain a certain flexibility to modify routines whenever an unforeseen event requires it.

On the other hand, a general structure of a flamenco guitar class would be:

Preliminary phase: presentation of the activity	5 minutes
Warm-up and posture exercises	5 minutes
Technique exercises	20 minutes
Study of masterpiece	25 minutes
Final phase: Stretching and homework	5 minutes

Moreover, you may learn more about study techniques with Maestro Álvaro Antona, please, check this video:

<https://youtu.be/1y5OHakejXU>

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