

Introduction

This book has been specifically designed to accomplish two things...

- #1. To teach the student to READ music.

Reading "crutches" have been eliminated as much as possible. Fingering and counting indications have been kept at what I consider a sensible minimum.

- #2. For the gradual development of dexterity in BOTH hands.

This is the physical part of learning to play the guitar and as such cannot be rushed. Practice all material slowly enough to maintain an even tempo. Do not skip or "slight" anything, and also do not attempt to "completely perfect" any one lesson before going on. Playing technique is an accumulative process and you will find each time you review material already studied it will seem easier to play. (Slow, steady practice and constant review will eventually lead to speed and accuracy.)

I should like to mention at this point that all music presented for study on these pages is original and has been created especially for the guitar. EACH composition has been designed to advance the student's musical knowledge and playing ability, and yet be as musical as possible. There is no student-teacher division in the duets. Both guitar parts are written to be studied by the pupil and almost all parts will musically stand alone.

I have not included any "old favorites" as guitar arrangements of these songs are available in many existing publications. (Also, you do not learn to READ music by playing melodies that are familiar to you.)

I have not tried to make this book into a music dictionary by cramming it with pages filled with nothing but musical terms and markings as it is considerably more important to give the student as much music to play as possible. (The most common and necessary terms and markings are, of course, used and explained...If further information is desired, some very excellent music dictionaries in soft cover editions can be obtained at a small cost.)

I do feel, however, that with this method, (as with all others) you must search out additional material to practice as your ultimate ability depends entirely on how much reading and playing you do.

So good luck, and have fun. ...

Wm. G. Leavitt

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