



As a guitar teacher, my first objective is to establish the student's goals for his or her guitar lessons and music overall. It's important for me to know as clearly as possible what the student is trying to achieve in order to determine the best teaching strategy. For example, a student seeking admission to a top-level conservatory will have vastly different goals from someone who simply wants to play for personal enjoyment. Next, depending on the student's ultimate goal, I will work with them to develop a plan to help achieve their goals in the least amount of time. I will do my best to prescribe the most effective skills and learning materials available.

Every student will benefit from learning more about the various elements of playing the guitar. Natural technical ability, dexterity, and flexibility play a role, but the general principles of playing can be developed over time. While I encourage all students to learn the fundamentals of musicianship, the student will ultimately decide as to what degree these are important for their goals with guitar and music. Once students establish a functional level of playing we can branch out into other areas of interest. At this point, for example, the student may decide to shift the focus of their lessons to learning to play songs.

Active engagement in music has many benefits which extend throughout one's life. My primary goal for lessons is to create a fun environment for learning that fosters a positive musical experience. Imagination has always played a key role in my life and I believe it plays a key role in the learning process as well. The ability to "hear" the music in your mind is at least as important as the ability to actually play an instrument. A creative approach helps students to learn from the beginning that creating music is something anyone can do. Ideally, I encourage students to develop an enjoyable practice routine. A clear vision of what you want to achieve and consistent daily practice will speed your progress and help you achieve your music goals.

I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experience with fellow aspiring guitarists and musicians.



Academic Background:

Classical Guitar - Michael Daher 1982 - 2013
Christopher Parkening - Pepperdine University 2013
Christopher Parkening - Montana State University 1999
Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences
Audio Engineering and Music Production 1999
John Sutherland - Montana State University 1997
David Brandon - Montana State University 1997
Christopher Parkening - Montana State University 1997
Norbert Kraft - Professor at the University of Toronto 1988
Peter Klassen - Harmony and Counterpoint Studies 1983
Philip Keiler - Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies 1982
Gwendolyn Davies - Harmony and Counterpoint Studies 1979-1980
Miles Macdonell Collegiate - Classical Guitar, Music Theory 1978
Alan Barrett - Guitar Instructor, 1976
Peter's Music - Private Guitar Lessons, 1970 - 1972

Teaching Experience:

West Music Conservatory	Private studio guitar instructor. 2006-2012
J.H. Bruns	Music Retreat - Guitar Seminar, 2010
First Steps in Music	Private studio guitar instructor. 2004-2006
Visiting Artist Program	Public School Songwriting instructor, San Diego, CA. 2004-2005
West Music Conservatory	Private studio guitar instructor. 2000-2004
Griggs Music	Conservatory Private studio guitar instructor. 2000-2001
Inkster School	Creativity and Songwriting workshop, 1996
Artisipation	Songwriting seminar - Winnipeg, Canada 1994
Inkster School	Gifted and Talented Creativity Workshop, 1993
McKinley School	Visiting Artist Program, Davenport, IA 1990
Artisipation	Songwriting seminar - Winnipeg, Canada 1989
Artists In The Schools	Public School Songwriting Residency Program, Manitoba, Canada 1987-1998
Artisipation	Songwriting seminar - Winnipeg, Canada 1985
River East Schools	Substitute Music Band Teacher, 1984-1990
St. Vital Schools	Substitute Music Band Teacher, 1984-1990
St. Boniface Schools	Substitute Music Band Teacher, 1984-1990
Guitar Lessons	Private and group guitar instructor, Winnipeg, Canada, 1982-1999

Recognition and Awards:

GigMasters	Best of 2012 - Guitarist, 2012
GigMasters	Rising Star - Top Guitarist, 2011
Manitoba Music Festival	Senior Category, 1st Place. 1983
Guinness Book of Records	Longest Canoe Journey, 1982



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Education:

Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences - Tempe, AZ
Audio Engineering, Recording, and Music Production 1999
Berklee Guitar Method 1-2-3
Christopher Parkening Method, I - II
Miles Macdonell Collegiate - Winnipeg, MB, Canada
Classical Guitar / Music Theory 1978

Additional Education:

Peter Klassen - Harmony and Counterpoint Studies, 1983
Gwendolyn Davies - Harmony and Counterpoint Studies, 1979-1980
Alan Barrett - Guitar / Music Theory, 1976

Professional Positions:

2006-2012 **West Music Conservatory,**
Private studio guitar instructor.
Group guitar lessons

2004-2006 **First Steps in Music,**
Private studio guitar instructor.

2000-2004 **West Music Conservatory,**
Private studio guitar instructor.
Digital Audio Workstation and Audio Software setup
Audio Recording

2000-2001 **Griggs Music,**
Private studio guitar instructor.

1987-1998 **Artists in the Schools - Multi-Disciplinary,**
Public School Songwriting Residency Program
Songwriting, Creativity.

1984-1990 **Substitute Teacher; Junior High - High School,**
River East Schools
St. Vital Schools
St. Boniface Schools



High School: J. H. Bruns Collegiate, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Classical Guitar Performance (2009-2010)

Miles Macdonell Collegiate, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Classical Guitar Performance (1983-2009)

**Elementary/
Middle School** Flora Vista Elementary School, Encinitas, California
Visiting Artist Songwriting Residency (2005)

El Camino Creek Elementary School, Carlsbad, California
Visiting Artist Songwriting Residency (2005)

Ada Harris Elementary School, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, California
Visiting Artist Songwriting Residency (2005)

Park Dale Lane Elementary School, Encinitas, California
Visiting Artist Songwriting Residency (2005)

McKinley Elementary School, Davenport, Iowa
Visiting Artist Songwriting Residency (1990)

**Related
Experience**

West Music Conservatory, Private studio guitar instructor, Moline, Illinois 2006-2012

J.H. Bruns, Music Retreat - Guitar Seminar, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 2010

First Steps in Music, Private studio guitar instructor, Vista, California 2004-2006

Visiting Artist Program, Residency Songwriting instructor, San Diego, California. 2004-2005

West Music Conservatory, Private studio guitar instructor, Davenport, Iowa. 2000-2004

Griggs Music Conservatory, Private studio guitar instructor, Davenport, Iowa. 2000-2001

Inkster School Creativity and Songwriting workshop, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1996

Artisipation - Songwriting seminar - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1994

Inkster School, Gifted and Talented Creativity Workshop, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1993

McKinley School, Visiting Artist Songwriting Program, Davenport, Iowa 1990

Artisipation - Songwriting seminar - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1989

Artists In The Schools Songwriting Residency Program, Manitoba, Canada 1987-1998

Artisipation - Songwriting seminar - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1985

River East Schools, Substitute Music Band Teacher, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1984-1990

St. Vital Schools, Substitute Music Band Teacher, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1984-1990

St. Boniface Schools, Substitute Music Band Teacher, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1984-1990

Guitar Lessons, Private and group guitar instructor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 1982-1999



**Professional
Development**

Inkster School Creativity and Songwriting workshop, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1996

Inkster School, Gifted and Talented Creativity Workshop, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 1993