

Five Must-Check-Out Resources for Online Guitar Teaching

While these appear in no particular order, they are all worth checking out. Some are free and others are priced reasonably.

Musicca.com

One of the biggest concerns right now is if students have guitars at home. Even if a student does not have a guitar, Musicca.com can be a temporary answer. Go to Musicca.com, click "Tools", click "Guitar", and you will see a virtual guitar. I have created two videos demonstrating how to play melodies from the Beginning attachments this week as well as chords. Check it out. Even students with guitars will find this fun to do when they are away from their instrument but have a phone.

Virtual Guitar Tablature- <https://youtu.be/CvEMu5Y-MA0>

Virtual Guitar Strumming-<https://youtu.be/FqXftmkoL6c>

These tutorials are intended for students. Virtual Guitar is free so there is no reason not to get students involved with learning to play the guitar even if there is no guitar.

Upbeatmusicapp.com

Okay, this app is a game changer! You have to check this out. You have seen the many virtual performances of various virtual ensembles on Facebook. If you have ever tried to do one of these virtual performances you know how many countless hours it takes to collect the videos, line them up, mix the sound, etc. It is an endless and mostly thankless job.

Not anymore! Upbeatmusicapp.com does everything for you and it is free! There is a limit to how large the ensemble can be which is four performers. This is great for guitar classes because every guitar ensemble can be divided into duos, trios and/or quartets. Even if you are working on a large, four-part ensemble, the ensemble can be divided into quartets and you can hear every student perform his/her part in a small ensemble.

Students at home can go to this site, create a class, invite their ensemble members, talk, visit, discuss tempo, set the tempo and each individual records his/her part with a metronome. When everyone is done, the software creates a finished product. It is that easy. Students can then send their finished performance to the teacher.

If you would like to do a video with the full ensemble, use software like **Wondershare Filmora9** to put the individual videos together to create a full ensemble. There is a free version available online. (<https://filmora.wondershare.net/video-editor/>)

Here is a tutorial my son Tyler and I made on the fly. <https://youtu.be/Fu29hXbzxVE>

One last thing. Look at this app not only as a video creator but also as a virtual rehearsal hall with no lag and no latency issues.

FretboardBiology.com

This resource is for intermediate and advanced students. Every teacher has students that practice regularly and are beyond the level of their class. This resource is for the most serious students. Joe Elliot, a noted guitarist, and high-profile teacher created FretboardBiology which is a four-year, online course of study with similar content taught at Berklee School of Music or Musician's Institute where Mr. Elliot taught for many years.

Recently, Mr. Elliot also created the *Preparatory Suite* designed for students who have completed a beginning guitar class that follows the NAfME Best Practices. The *Preparatory Suite* is an online, self-paced course that is absolutely free. It will take students one to two years to complete this course. The Preparatory Suite is the bridge from the completion of year one beginning guitar to "college ready" learning. There is no up sale. This program is absolutely free. Here is the link: <https://fb-prepsuite.com/introduction/>

The *Preparatory Suite* can be easily used as an online, distance learning program to enhance any intermediate or advanced guitar class. It is rich in content and designed to teach guitar students the many important elements of music and guitar technique.

Sessionsacademy.org

If you are teaching guitar as a secondary instrument and playing the guitar is really not your thing, then sessionsacademy.org is a terrific resource. This website actually includes ALL instruments (band and orchestra). I am only going to cover guitar. Ukulele is also an option, but for now, I am only discussing guitar.

Under the Instruments pull-down tab, select "Guitar" and from there, select "Godfrey Guitar Method". Tom Godfrey has put together an entire course for teaching guitar. He has a video for each lesson. They are well produced and ideal for teachers who are not good at modeling. With online learning, something like this is a real necessity.

Under the tab "Store" you will find that Mr. Godfrey has written seven method books and has created videos and play-along tracks for all of the content. Four books are focused on note reading and melody playing. Three books are intended to teach chords and strumming techniques.

Sessionsacademy.org has made a special deal for all of my readers to make this entire course available for only \$12 per student which includes all seven method books which come in PDF to the teacher and the teacher has a license to share the music with students. To get this special price, there must be a minimum of 50 students signed at one time. This is a HUGE discount.

CCSD allows teachers to charge a \$40 fee for guitar. The \$12 could be paid from that fee. For online learning, this could be a solution. If you decide to sign up for this program, contact Jim Gross and mention that you read about it in this newsletter and ask for this special deal.

Consonus Music Institute

Similar to the program mentioned above, Consonus Music (<https://cmilearn.org/>) was written by legendary Mike Christiansen. This program is the granddaddy of teaching online and blended learning. Mr. Christiansen has pulled from his decades of teaching and performing and created a complete guitar program. The classroom guitar teacher has to do little outside of taking role and classroom management.

Again, this is terrific online solution for teaching guitar. The cost is \$180 for the teacher's license and \$25 per student which includes online licenses and all workbooks. It is very reasonably priced, and this program delivers all of the skills and methods to fulfill national standards and the NAfME Best Practices for Guitar Education.

For the non-guitar playing music educator, and/or the accomplished guitarist who has no idea how to teach forty students at a time online, this is the solution. And, it can be funded by collecting the \$40 per student from the district class fee.

If you are at a school that prohibits class fees, talk to your administrator. For less than the cost of a single private lesson, a guitar student will receive a full year's worth of high quality instruction from one of the leading guitar educators in the nation.