



Guitar Council Dr. Kevin Vigil, Chair

Continuity of Education = Deeper Learning

As we have left our physical school buildings due to the COVID-19 virus, we have now moved to online formats throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia and beyond. The first phase of this is being called Continuity of Learning. This means that we are to work with our students without giving new material until all equity issues are resolved. So what does Continuity of Learning mean? I take this as an opportunity to review, but in addition, deepen student learning.

My intermediate guitar class learned the Study in C, Op. 240, No. 24 by Ferdinando Carulli at the beginning of the third quarter. Instead of simply reviewing this piece, I decided to approach this more like a private lesson. Loudoun County Public Schools is not allowing video chats with students at this time, so I created tutorial videos for my various classes. Since I have a green screen, I decided to put a photo of my classroom as the background. You can [watch an example here](#).

In this lesson, I was able to discuss: form, fingerings, technique, balance, contrast, and working with a metronome. The beauty of a video tutorial is that students can watch and review at any point on the timeline. To make this easier, I list the video times for each topic covered.

For example:

Introduction:	1:15
Form, Section "A":	1:49
Section "B":	19:15
Section "C":	24:46
Metronome:	31:35

To differentiate instruction, I also created a graphic document that is posted in my Google Classroom. This document illustrates the various functions in polyphonic music: melody, bass, and harmony.

To make an even deeper connection to the content, I encourage students to arrange this solo piece into a trio. This is easy enough to do if students truly understand the functions of melody, bass, and harmony.

Here is an example of the first four measures of the same piece in a trio arrangement:

Score

Study in C Major

Opus 240, No. 24 Ferdinando Carulli

While I'm sure we would all rather be in our classrooms with our students, this online challenge may further deepen our instruction when we return.