

# Heuristic Training

Conscientious Music Education



Heuristic Music Training  
809-1229 Marlborough Ct.  
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Heuristic Music provides high quality, in-home music instruction services in Oakville, Ontario and the surrounding area. We recognize that no two people learn the same way and consult with our clients to create programs that are as individual as they are.

## Guitar Technique & Theory

Instruction in Guitar Technique & Theory is ideal for guitarists of all levels who want to develop their instrumental skills while learning more about the inner workings of music. Beginners will receive a solid technical foundation on the guitar while learning their favorite songs. More experienced guitarists will improve their technique and learn the underlying structural concepts that drive the music they play.

### Selected topics:

- Hand position & fingering
- Chords, scales & intervals
- Strumming & picking
- Fingerpicking
- Improvisation
- Chord function & progression
- Bass guitar



### Fees & payments

Heuristic Music maintains rates that are competitive with other providers of quality music instruction in the Oakville area:

- 30 minutes: \$25 per lesson (\$100 per payment)
- 45 minutes: \$35 per lesson (\$140 per payment)
- 60 minutes: \$45 per lesson (\$180 per payment)
- 90 minutes: \$60 per lesson (\$240 per payment)

Fees are collected in advance, four lessons per payment. Adjustments may be made to compensate for vacations and other commitments that may occasionally interfere with the regular lesson schedule. Lessons may be stopped at any time, however, *refunds will not be issued for lessons paid in advance* (see scheduling and cancellation policies below).

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, VISA, MasterCard and American Express.

### Scheduling & cancellations - **New for 2009/10**

Lessons are held weekly at a pre-determined time, unless alternate arrangements have been made. It may be possible to reschedule the occasional lesson to avoid conflicts with other commitments. Cancellation notice must be given a minimum of 7 days in advance to receive a credit for the cancelled lesson. If you provide less than 7 days notice, you agree to forfeit the fees for the cancelled lessons (please see the **FAQ**, below).

### Long term cancellations - **New for 2009/10**

If you cancel lessons for more than 2 consecutive weeks between September 1 and June 30, you will be charged 50% of your normal rate for each lesson missed (not including the first 2 cancelled lessons) to hold your place. For example, if you cancel for 4 weeks, you

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will be charged 50% of your normal rate for the third and fourth weeks. This policy may also apply to regularly occurring non-consecutive cancellations (for example, canceling every second week).

## **Long term cancellations**

If you decide to take a break from lessons for the summer, you may hold your place for the fall and winter by leaving a non-refundable deposit for the first four lessons in September. Clients who decide not to leave a deposit will be welcomed back on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **Frequently asked questions**

### ***Why study music?***

In addition to simply being a fun and constructive activity, numerous studies conducted by leading psychologists and universities have proven that the study of music enhances cognitive development in children. Teenagers and adults alike benefit from the sense of satisfaction and relaxation that come with learning to play the music they have always enjoyed listening to. Music can also provide rewarding social interaction.

### ***What do I need to get started?***

Your instrument of choice and enthusiasm are all that are required. If you do not already have an instrument, consult with Heuristic Music for advice on purchasing or renting. Specific books may be recommended depending on your skill level and interests.

### ***Can I bring my own music?***

Absolutely! Heuristic Music has always functioned on the premise that a valuable lesson can be derived from almost any song. Your instructor will help you choose songs that are appropriate to your interests and skill level.

### ***How often should I practice?***

Like most subjects, music requires constant reinforcement. In general, each student should strive to practice a minimum of three hours per week. It is important to establish a consistent practice schedule. For example, the three hours could be divided into six 30 minute sessions, spaced evenly over the course of a week. Younger children may respond more favourably to shorter practice sessions and should be assisted by their parents.

Each practice session should be divided according to the student's familiarity with each topic, with extra emphasis placed on newer or more difficult material. A well balanced practice session might follow a plan similar to the following:

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Warm-up (5 to 10 minutes): review earlier songs and exercises.  
Technique (10 to 20 minutes): practice current techniques and exercises.  
Songs and Reading (10 to 20 minutes): practice sight-reading and current songs.

*Additional practice beyond these guidelines is strongly encouraged.*

It is important to recognize that the study of any musical instrument involves the internalization of a large amount of information. It is natural that students may experience the occasional period of frustration, or feel as if they are not advancing at a rate appropriate to the amount of practice they put in. A conscientious instructor will do his or her best to help the student work through these periods, but the responsibility ultimately rests with the student to properly identify and communicate the source of their difficulties.

## ***Where will my lessons be held?***

For the ultimate in convenience and to ensure that you learn in a comfortable environment, lessons will be held in your home. We ask that you choose a quiet location and ensure that hard chairs (preferably without arms) and a music stand are available.

## ***Why do I have to provide cancellation notice so far in advance?***

Between September and June, there is rarely extra space available to reschedule lessons. It is often possible to temporarily switch places with another student, but making the necessary arrangements can take several days (and sometimes ends up affecting 2 or 3 other students). Therefore, 7 days notice will be required as of September 1, 2009.

**When you're ready to create the music education program that is right for you, contact Heuristic Music at [info@heuristictraining.com](mailto:info@heuristictraining.com) or 905-599-7515\***

\*Office hours: Monday - Saturday, 9AM-9PM | Best time to call: Monday - Friday, 9AM-2PM