NAMM Show 2012

Marlene attended the 2012 NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Show on January 19-22 in Anaheim, California. The show is the largest Music industry trade show in the country. Many guitar makers showcased their newest models and innovations. She also saw the latest in guitar products and accessories. Many companies invite performers to “show” their products and there were many celebrities seen strolling the show floor!

Workshop dates and locations
1/28 Centralia, Washington Centralia College
2/25 San Luis Obispo, California Cuesta College
3/3 Costa Mesa, California Orange Coast College
3/10 Glendale, California Glendale Community College
3/17 Carlsbad, California Carlsbad Senior Center
3/24 Torrance California El Camino College
3/31 Santa Monica, California Santa Monica College
4/6 Pueblo, Colorado Pueblo Community College
4/7 Castle Rock, Colorado Castle Rock Community Center
4/13 Fort Collins, Colorado Front Range Community College
4/14 Boulder, Colorado Front Range Community College
4/15 Denver, Colorado Front Range Community College
4/21 Salt Lake City, Utah Salt Lake Community College
5/19 Torrance California El Camino College

(*)Learn to Play Guitar in a Day! II added

What’s New?

“It’s a New” DVD

The wildly popular 1 day workshop will be available on DVD Spring 2012
Marlene’s Music On-line Store
www.marlenesmusic.com

(*)Learn to Play Guitar in a Day! II added

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How Much Do I Need To Practice?

I am asked this question frequently. Sometimes it’s asked in the form of “how many times per week and how much do I need to practice”, sound familiar? Well my simple guitar instructor answer is ~ practice everyday, all the time! However I realize it’s really not that simple. Your progress depends on two things; your personal playing goals and your time availability.

Let me first clarify the difference between playing and practicing. Playing guitar is playing the songs and skills that you already know. Practicing is about getting better at a new song or skill. That being said, your goal might be a challenging song but your schedule may only allow limited practicing time. It will obviously take repetition (practice) to gain the ability to play that challenging song.

We all have demands on our time ~ work, family, home and school to name a few, which can leave little to no extra time for the fun of practicing. Eking out that time may be your biggest challenge! I have a student who plays for his kids early in the morning before he goes to work. Still another student keeps her guitar near their sofa, then after she finishes preparing and having dinner with her family (after her day at work) she picks up her guitar and practices. And another student has created a practice room with his guitar on a stand and his music waiting for him so all he has to do is walk in the room, pick up his guitar and practice.

Practicing is rarely easy because you are working on things you do not know how to play yet or something that is difficult to play. Sometimes it can even be frustrating. Here’s the simple fact about practicing; you will not get better at a new song or skill with out playing it repeatedly! Consider this, “When I was young, I never wanted to leave the court until I got things exactly correct. My dream was to become a pro”, Larry Bird. He went on to say, “I don’t know if I practiced more than anybody, but I sure practiced enough. I still wonder if somebody—somewhere—was practicing more than me.”

Repetition creates muscle memory. With enough repetition (practice time) the muscle memory becomes more permanent. Each time you practice it will get easier until you get to the point that you are able to comfortably play that new song or new skill. My final answer to the question, practice as often as possible!

“Learn to Play Guitar in a Day!”™ Workshops

The 2012 "Learn to Play Guitar in a Day!"™ workshops are off to a great start! Several workshops are scheduled (see the Calendar) including 2 additional new workshops — Learn to Play Guitar in a Day! II, a follow up workshop for those who have attended the one day workshop, and Learn to Play Guitar in a Day! - For Kids. New locations are in the works on the East Coast! Check our website calendar at www.marlenesmusic.com for the most current workshop dates and locations

“Learn to Play Guitar in a Day!”™ is a 1 day workshop for busy adults who would like to learn to play guitar, but do not have time for weekly lessons. Launched in 2009, Marlene Hutchinson created a 1 day workshop based on her hugely successful private lesson format. The workshop is the equivalent of taking six weekly lessons in just one day!

Here’s what workshop attendees are saying...

“I felt I gained a lot and want to continue. It’s a ton of information presented skillfully.” Barry ~ Glendale, California

“It was great and an awesome experience!” Cathy ~ Tustin, California

“This was a very good workshop. Strumming and picking were the best!” Owain ~ Maui, Hawaii

“This was the perfect amount of material for a 5 hour class.” Becky ~ Denver, Colorado

“Marlene was very positive and encouraging.” Doug ~ Salt Lake City, Utah

“I feel like I can play. Marlene touched on all parts of guitar playing.” Mark ~ Santa Monica, California

“It was super helpful and I really liked learning the picking…” Carly ~ Seattle, Washington

Where are they now?

Alice attended the workshop at Santa Monica College on June 11, 2011 and hasn’t stopped playing since! She plays for family and friends which you can see on these YouTube links [http://youtu.be/Ld52MGiH hs](http://youtu.be/Ld52MGiH hs) and [http://youtu.be/6dsZw_X_wDE](http://youtu.be/6dsZw_X_wDE). We caught up with Alice recently and here’s what she shared: “I practice almost every weekend, between 10:00 & 11:00 pm when I wrap up my tasks and feel relaxed. Saturdays and Sundays I usually play a few times a day totaling about an hour. I also try various techniques, and more difficult chords (such as an F chord - argh that one is one of the most difficult) during my practice time. I started to sing for family and friends in August 2011. I love playing songs like Ring of Fire, Blvd. of Broken Dreams and Smokie (the band) songs. I would recommend to try as much as possible to just play anytime you find a moment. It’s not only helpful for increasing one’s ability to play better, but most importantly, it’s a great stress reliever, and the best medication one can have for a happy more fulfilling life.” Well Said Alice!