

MUSIC LESSONS AT HOLMER GREEN SENIOR SCHOOL 2025/26

CLASSICAL GUITAR LESSONS:

Hello,

I'm Catherine, and I've been the classical guitar teacher here at HGSS since 2011. I've got over 25 years of teaching experience at many schools across Buckinghamshire.

I've been playing the classical guitar since the age of 12 and my lessons started right here at HGSS where I was a former pupil!

There are lots of different types of guitar out there so I hope the information below about classical guitar is helpful when deciding what to go for.....



What is the classical guitar?

Don't worry, it doesn't mean you're only going to play classical music!

'Classical guitar' (sometimes known as the Spanish Guitar) refers to the way the guitar is played and the type of guitar used. Classical guitars have a lovely mellow, clean sound, and the nylon strings are smooth and really comfortable to play which is great for beginners.

Chances are, if you played the guitar at primary school, you would have used a classical guitar. And they come in up to 5 different sizes so there is always a classical guitar out there to fit anyone of any age.

The classical guitar is played 'finger-style' which means individual notes and chords are picked out with the righthand fingers to create a wonderful sound where the guitarist is playing a tune, a harmony part and a bass line all in one!

What do classical guitarists learn?

Classical guitarists learn to read standard musical notation and take on a good knowledge of music theory along the way. This is a fantastic skill to take on and means that classical guitarists gain a musical knowledge that is equal to those who learn to play orchestral instruments.

Beginners will learn fundamental technical skills and then have a choice of whether they want to go down the route of taking graded exams (not compulsory) or learning and making progress but without the pressure of exams. A classical guitarist can play any genre and style of music such as Rock, Pop, Blues, Jazz, Classical, Flamenco, Baroque, Latin, Musical Theatre and anything in between!

As well as learning for fun and relaxation, pupils can use their classical guitar skills to help with GCSE and A level Music practical work, or as part of the Skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. They have the opportunity to perform in school concerts, assemblies and local area music

competitions. As they progress, all classical guitarists will have the chance to join an ensemble at High Wycombe or Amersham Music Centre where they will work towards performances at venues such as the Wycombe Swan Theatre and even the Royal Albert Hall! The most dedicated pupils who reach a high level of playing are also able to audition for the prestigious National Youth Guitar Ensemble.

Lessons Information and Costs

All prospective new pupils receive one free 30-minute taster lesson, and those who decide to continue beyond the taster lesson will receive their first two lessons free of charge.

There are 32 lessons per academic year and all lessons are 30 minutes in length.

Please contact me for further information about lesson fees.

Purchasing A Guitar

The classical guitar is one of the most inexpensive instruments for a beginner to start out on. A decent quality new beginner guitar can be as little as £80. Second-hand classical guitars are easy to come by and some music shops offer great value rental schemes. There is no need to purchase expensive items such as amplifiers, but in addition to the guitar you'll also require a good quality padded guitar case, a beginner book, a foot stool, a tuner and a practice book. The total cost of all these items is usually no more than £50. Full information about this will be provided after taster lessons have taken place.

Where will lessons take place?

You can opt to have lessons in school, or if you'd prefer to keep guitar lessons separate from school, you can arrange to have lessons after school hours at my house which is a 5 minute drive from HGSS. Pupils who have their lessons out of school will still be included in school concerts and other musical events.

To find out more or to book your free taster lesson, please contact me at any time:

cwellsguitar@gmail.com I look forward to hearing from you and meeting potential new

classical guitarists soon!

VIOLIN, VIOLA, TRUMPET AND TROMBONE

Welcome to viola, trumpet, violin and trombone lessons at HGSS. My name is Mrs Good and I am a professional viola and violinist, playing trumpet and trombone mostly for fun. Which instrument would suit you? Violin and viola is terrific for us left handers. Violin appeals to my 'showy, clever, 'give me the tune' side. Viola to my: be different; valuable, every orchestra is desperate to persuade me to play for them; dark, deeper voice side. Practising trumpet is



excellent revenge when someone in the family has annoyed you. Trombone is very zen, let's let other instruments struggle with the fast and high notes. There's only you and I in your lessons so they are a lovely half an hour oasis where you don't have to try to catch up or keep up with the rest of the class. If you want or need a technique repeated 10, 100 or 1000 times or conversely to go faster we'll do that. I think the most important thing is finding something you enjoy playing and we have made space in lessons for Anime, Chinese scale patterns, church music, the band Queen, tv theme tunes, and helping you with your orchestra part. Lessons are at a different time each week, so you don't miss the same lesson.

From the parent perspective, lessons at school spare you being a taxi service and hanging around of an evening. While there is no pressure to sit Music Grades, a previous Head of Music at HGSS said that my super skill was getting the most unlikely children through exams. A number of my students have taken advantage of only 40% of GCSE music being a formal exam, some going on to A level and the highest instrument grades entirely on lessons at school. Contact: Shirley.good@talktalk.net

PIANO WITH ASH



Ash is the owner of Rise Up Music and has been working with students of all ages for over 12 years. His focus is on creativity and building a complete and well-rounded approach to music. Alongside standard instrumental lessons he has worked extensively with additional needs classes and delivered music therapy workshops across a variety of settings. As well as teaching, he has written a guitar tutor book and created a board game to help children learn music. Lessons are all about helping young people build confidence and express themselves while forming a solid and comprehensive level of musicianship and theory.

VOCALS WITH ROSS



Ross is an established songwriter, producer and mixer from London. Previous clients include James Morrison, Carrie Underwood, One Direction. Ross has had music featured on the UK Top 10, Radio 1, Suits, Lucifer and Love Island. With such a strong ear for music, he will be able to bring out the best of any student, whether it's playing purely for fun or working through the grades.

Lessons with Ash or Ross are £16 for 20 minutes or £24 for 30 minutes. Contact: contact.riseupmusic@gmail.com

ELECTRIC GUITAR AND DRUM LESSONS



Tomi Spasevski is a lifelong musician and multi-instrumentalist with over a decade of teaching experience and a master's degree in percussion from the Music Academy of Zagreb, Croatia. He enjoys teaching and playing the guitar, percussion, drums and piano. He has participated in numerous music competitions and performances with different ensembles and orchestras in Croatia and all over the world. Tomi appreciates and teaches a wide variety of music genres and grade books. Some of his favourite drummers are Carter McLean and Gene Hoglan. Fees are due in advance of each complete term.

Contact altraloth@gmail.com or 07599 602 354