

20 Favorite Exercises For Classical Guitar

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For beginner to intermediate classical guitarists
by Bradford Werner

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Who is this book for?

This book is for beginner to intermediate classical guitar students. Advanced players may also find the exercises useful, but the aim is to develop a well-rounded foundational technique.

How should I use this book?

The book is organized into progressive sections (see the table of contents). It is very important that you successfully complete one exercise before moving to the next. You want to create a model hand position and posture and maintain it as the exercises become more difficult. Therefore, set a high standard, especially for the first few exercises. Do not lose the model positions just because the exercises become more difficult.

Will this book teach me how to position my hands or move my fingers?

Although I've included many tips and words of advice, this book is mainly exercises, not a "how-to" book. For information on movement and positions see the YouTube video lessons. However, I have included exercises that I believe will encourage good hand positions.

YouTube Video Lessons

Visit my blog or the sale page to see video lessons for these exercises. In the videos I play the exercise while discussing important tips and hand positions. The videos can be found at the purchase page on Werner Guitar Editions or at the blog: thisisclassicalguitar.com/lessons/

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Part One: Fundamentals

These exercises form a foundation which support more advanced exercises. I firmly believe that simplistic exercises played at a high level are essential to developing a solid and confident technique. Although many of the exercises are played on open-strings, you should strive to execute them with a professional sound, relaxed touch, and physical control.

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Part Two: Development

These exercises involve minor stretches, shifts, and endurance. They also aim to develop musical articulation and expression. Be careful to take breaks and relax between each one.

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Part Three: Expansion & Context

These exercises test your technical skills further. The modified etudes test your ability to execute material in a musical context. Make sure you use these exercises and etudes for practicing technique. Focus, improve your technique, and play musically.

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