

# Classical Guitar Method

## Volume 2

By Bradford Werner

[wernerguitareditions.com](http://wernerguitareditions.com)

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2019 Edition



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## **Printing the PDF**

This PDF has been designed for double sided printing. Place it in a three ring binder with dividers for each section. You are *not* permitted to print and *sell* this book.

## **Hard Copies**

Print editions of this book are available on Amazon stores online.

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## **About this book**

This book teaches classical guitar skills with a focus on reading tonal music. It includes solos, duos, chord songs, and exercises, giving students a well-rounded and enjoyable musical experience. The book has been designed to function as a manageable amount of material to supplement weekly lessons. Because repertoire at this level rarely explores upper positions or difficult key signatures, the material has been limited to common keys and 1st to 5th position.

## **How to use this book**

- Study Part 1 in progressive order, mastering every piece on every page. Incorporate the other parts as needed based on the level and age of the student.
- Use this book for the first half of weekly lessons with a qualified teacher. The second half of lessons should be dedicated to concert repertoire, theory, and special interests.
- Watch the video lessons to gain context as well as musical and technical advice. I have limited the textual information in this book in favour of providing video lessons.

## **Free video lessons for this method**

Video lessons on musicality and technique are available to supplement this book. Find the list of lessons at [thisisclassicalguitar.com](http://thisisclassicalguitar.com) or [wernerguitareditions.com](http://wernerguitareditions.com) or at:

<https://www.thisisclassicalguitar.com/classical-guitar-method-book-volume-2/>

## **Use of the 4th finger on upper strings**

Students are often confused by inconsistencies in the fingering of scales vs repertoire. The intention of this book is to develop a balanced and adaptable left hand that is prepared for repertoire. The use of the 4th finger on D and G on the top two strings is required during repertoire and is, therefore, emphasized throughout this book. It is acceptable to use the 3rd finger when playing scales, exercises, or observing a one-finger-per-fret rule but students who are prone to avoiding the 4th finger during repertoire should consistently use it until the habit is firmly established. Trust the advice of your teacher if they decide to change anything.

## **Playing with fingernails in the right hand**

Growing and shaping fingernails offers more control over technique and tone production but don't rush into it. If you feel overwhelmed by reading and playing, continue without nails while focusing on posture, hand positions, and reading. Once you feel comfortable with the playing level, see the lesson on nails: [thisisclassicalguitar.com/fingernails-on-classical-guitar/](http://thisisclassicalguitar.com/fingernails-on-classical-guitar/)

## **Recommended books to use with this method**

- Sight Reading For the Classical Guitar, Level I-III by Robert Benedict - Sight reading with emphasis on interpretation, phrasing, form, and more: <http://amzn.to/2o8bE0P>
- Celebrate Theory (Grade One & Two) - Theory from the RCM Toronto: [amzn.to/2qgpHyJ](http://amzn.to/2qgpHyJ)
- Ricardo Iznaola on Practicing - Practice well, habits & philosophy: <http://amzn.to/2hGBcdE>

## **Recommended books to use after this method**

- Classical Guitar Technique: Exercises, Scales, & Arpeggios: [wernerguitareditions.com](http://wernerguitareditions.com)
- More Repertoire & Lesson Books by Bradford Werner: [wernerguitareditions.com](http://wernerguitareditions.com)
- Sight Reading for Classical Guitar Level IV-V by Robert Benedict: <http://amzn.to/2g7NM53>

## **Recommended gear for this level**

- Seiko Quartz Metronome - Easy to use and a nice sound: <http://amzn.to/2kbzCpz>
- D'Addario NS Micro Clip-On Tuner - Low profile, works great: <http://amzn.to/2pecdpN>

## **Follow the website for free lessons, sheet music, and pro videos**

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## Practice Advice

**Happiness in small goals:** Making your practice sessions enjoyable will be key to long-term musical success and development. When experiencing difficulties, break up the piece or exercise into small manageable goals at a speed you can accomplish successfully. Even if you only play a few notes at a time, playing successfully will improve your skills and give you a feeling of accomplishment.

**Isolate difficulties and solidify strengths:** Balance your practice sessions by working on difficulties as well as maintaining easy material you can play well. Playing at a high quality level as often as possible will help develop a solid foundation. Work on your difficulties near the middle of your practice session and finish with something you can play well. This will ensure you end with a positive feeling of success.

**Practicing is Problem Solving:** Practicing is different than just playing the guitar. When you practice you need to identify problems or elements you wish to improve and solve them immediately. Simply playing the guitar will not make you a better musician. If your teacher says you should practice for 30 minutes a day, be sure you are actually *practicing* for 30 minutes not just playing.

**Combine repetition with thoughtful practice:** Although a certain amount of repetition is required to establish your skills, balance repetition with thoughtful reevaluation. Sometimes, improvement will occur by reexamining your posture, hand positions, or elements not directly connected to what you are studying. Having a qualified teacher is very helpful. They can identify problems before you repeat it a hundred times. That said, aim to be mindful at all times about what you are doing.

**Good days vs bad days:** Actually, I don't believe in good or bad practice days. All days are good opportunities to practice something. On days when you are having trouble focusing or executing material cleanly, slow down your speed and use a metronome until you are playing well. You may have to play at half the speed you intended but you can still get in some quality practice.

**Play slowly:** I've rarely encountered a student who practices as slowly as I think they should. Practicing ultra slowly will ensure you are playing with your best hand positions, sound, confidence, relaxation, accuracy, and more. The majority of your practicing should be at very slow tempos. Once you can play something well at a slow tempo, you can speed it up while keeping an eye on the quality level.

**Page markers:** Use page markers (sticky tabs) on the pages you are practicing so you can quickly flip to the next piece or exercise.

**Keep it simple:** Even the most advanced players will practice simple open string exercises but will do so at a very high quality level. Quality practice helps to improve your playing so keep the exercises and pieces simple enough that you can accomplish them at your highest potential. You don't have to prove yourself to anyone. You'll only improve if you set realistic and manageable goals.

**Trust your teacher:** If your teacher recommends something contrary to what's in this book, please trust their advice. Your teacher knows what's best for you and your personal and unique development. Learning from books and online videos can be helpful but the real work is done through long-term communication with teachers and other musicians.