

Guitar method – Playing guitar with fun and imagination

About the concept of the new guitar method

Based on 35 years of experience as a guitar teacher at music schools and universities, I have completely revised my old textbook of 1976 and 1979 and adjusted it to the prevailing didactic conditions.

The following basic aspects were central to the complete revision:

- The educational and didactic conditions have changed fundamentally.
- In Germany, group lessons as entry-level method have meanwhile become the rule without exception.
- Changes in the learning behaviour of children (spare time, influence of the media, etc.) pose a new educational (sometimes therapeutic) challenge to many teachers.
- Added to that, there are models such as 'JeKi' ('Jedem Kind ein Instrument' [An instrument for every child], a Land initiative for primary schools in North Rhine-Westphalia), 'Klassenmusizieren' [Ensemble playing in class], and others.

How shall modern instrumental teachers respond to that?

- This is where the new textbook comes in – in a clear, modern and richly illustrated form consisting of small learning steps in **three** successive volumes.
- Primarily designed for group lessons, but also well-trying in individual lessons, this method is addressed to children at primary school age, young people and adults.
- Basic music education (elementary music theory) is integrated from the very beginning, and comprehensive learning is accomplished 'with all the senses'.
- Based on the latest results of neuronal learning research, the concept of the textbook is structured in small basic learning steps which are language-assisted in the beginning and illustrated by numerous examples.
- The instrumental and musical progression moves from monophony to polyphony.
- All the while I remain true to my plan to recommend the apoyando stroke (i.e. playing notes using the 'rest stroke', to develop a solid sense of tone for all strings). Also, I still think it is sensible to start melody playing in the second position as this helps to practise the correct position of the striking hand right from the beginning and to train all fingers of the left hand evenly.
- The textbook leads from the elementary level to solid solo and ensemble playing.

- The numerous arrangements for the group lessons (2-4 parts) add a lot of variety to the lessons (especially in the case of heterogeneous groups) while taking the different learning tempos into account by using a clever mix of old and new learning steps.
- The incorporation of song accompaniment and popular forms of playing shall give children and young people early access to singing in lessons. The choice of styles is therefore wide open.
- The method has not been expressly been designed for ensemble playing in class or for lessons at primary schools; yet, didactic transfers are possible due to adjusted divisions of the parts in the exercises and pieces for these forms of teaching – according to the principle 'Learning by doing'.
- Each volume covers a teaching period of ca. 1-1.5 years.

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