

Flamenco Guitar Lessons with Leah Kruszewski at Lessonface

Overview

Flamenco guitar lessons focus on learning the fundamentals of flamenco technique and building a repertoire of solo material from various 'palos' (song forms).

Lesson duration and frequency

Students should book lessons of 45-minutes or one hour. Frequency of lessons depends on how much time the student has to practice. Plan on two to three hours of practice between each class, and schedule your lessons accordingly (for example, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly).

Materials

- Nylon string guitar
- Capo
- No book is necessary, as flamenco is taught by rote (the teacher demonstrates and the student copies). The student will receive a few videos after each class that summarize the material.

Additional info

- Listening to flamenco music is essential to learning how to play it. Plan on acquiring a library of flamenco music to give your lessons context. If you don't know where to start, search some of the palos listed below on Youtube, and ask me for recommendations.
- While classes are taught in English, we will naturally learn and use some flamenco-specific Spanish vocabulary.
- Flamenco in its purest and most complete form involves singing and dancing as well as guitar. For obvious reasons (scarcity of singers and dancers outside of Spain), online lessons generally focus on solo flamenco guitar repertoire only. That said, if you are very serious about flamenco guitar and are considering studying in Spain, I can adapt the curriculum to better prepare you for accompanying.

Material to Cover

Techniques

- Pulgar (thumb rest stroke)
- Alzapua (thumb 'strumming')
- Arpeggios
- Special Arpeggios
- Picado (flamenco version of rest stroke)
- Arpeggio-Picado
- Ligados (also known as slurs or hammer-ons and pull-offs)
- Tremolo
- Rasgueos (flamenco strumming)

Palos (styles, or song forms, of flamenco)

We will gradually cover the core flamenco palos and will mix in some of the 'extras' from time to time. For each palo, we will go over the compás (rhythm) and learn various falsetas (short solo

segments), which we will arrange into a coherent solo. Flamenco guitar is a fluid, constantly changing form of music, so we never really 'finish' a palo – we can always go back and add a few falsetas, tweak the structure, or completely dismantle our previous solo and re-arrange it into a new one.

Core palos (essential for a beginning flamenco student to learn)

- Solea (por arriba)
- Alegrías (por arriba, ending with Bulerías de Cádiz)
- Tangos (por medio)
- Tarantos
- Bulerías (por medio)
- Solea por Bulerías (por medio)
- Fandangos de Huelva (por arriba)

Additional Palos (we'll mix these in little by little, as playing level allows)

- Farruca
- Guajira
- Seguiriyas
- Abandolao/Verdiales
- Zapateado
- Malagueña
- Tarantas
- Granaínas
- Rondeña
- Sevillanas (folklore/popular)
- Rumba flamenca (popular)