



Winter 2010 FAQs

Dusty Strings Acoustic Guitar Orchestra Guitar Ensemble

What is the Dusty Strings Acoustic Guitar Orchestra?

The Dusty Strings Acoustic Guitar Orchestra brings together acoustic guitar players of all ages and styles working up professional-level arrangements using standard notation, tablature and mp3 practice tracks. "Every piece has a playable part for every player" is our motto. Players joining the Orchestra should have at least a couple of years experience and be able to play barre chords.

What is the Guitar Ensemble?

The Guitar Ensemble brings together beginner and intermediate guitar players who want to enjoy the experience of making music with other guitarists. The ensemble arrangements are simpler than the orchestra's and rarely range beyond the first five frets. Players joining the Ensemble should have at least six months of guitar playing experience.

When do the groups meet and how much do they cost?

The Guitar Orchestra meets on Saturday afternoons from 4:00-5:30.

Session 1 meets on January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13

Session 2 meets on February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27

The Guitar Ensemble meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:45-8:45

Session 1 meets on January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9

Session 2 meets on February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23

Each six week session costs \$120.

How do I register?

Call Dusty Strings at (206) 634-1662, or come in the store at 3406 Fremont Ave. N. in Seattle.

Who is Barry Pollack?

Barry Pollack directs and teaches the Guitar Orchestra and Guitar Ensemble. He has been learning, playing, and teaching guitar for over fifty years. Barry teaches guitar at Dusty Strings and performs regularly around Seattle. He has opened shows for Ray Charles and Jeff Beck and performed with the Seattle Symphony, Joffrey Ballet, Portland Opera and assorted local bands.



Dusty Strings

MUSIC SCHOOL

Do I need to know how to read music?

You should be able to read either Tablature (TAB) or Staff Notation. We use both. We work off of scores and often have to play or practice specific measures. To help your reading skills, we provide mp3s of the scores in slow and regular tempos.

Can I see some sample scores and list of songs?

Sample scores and a sample of our repertoire can be found online at modernclassicsguitar.com/orchestra.htm. You don't need to be able to play the sample scores to join the orchestra or ensemble, you just need to be willing to work on them.

Do we just play songs and pieces in the Orchestra?

We'll also learn scales and chord vocabulary and technique in an organized manner that each player can apply to their own style.

Can I use an electric guitar?

Only quietly and temporarily while getting an acoustic guitar. Any acoustic will do: steel strings or nylon. If you play acoustic bass or a seven string guitar you are especially welcome in the orchestra.

What have people said about the Guitar Orchestra and Ensemble?

I learned more in your class than I have in the last 30 years put together. And I had a great time. What I learned has really opened up my playing abilities. - Heidi M.

"Barry's unique and skillful musical direction keeps all players involved regardless of history or skill level. Even as a long-time player, I've grown in many ways and the whole thing is a blast!" – Erie Jones

"Playing and learning with the Guitar Orchestra was the most beneficial thing I'd ever done to advance my musical abilities." – Mark Tomlinson

"Maestro Pollack is masterful at arranging and teaching great compositions for multiple guitars and including players with different strengths for a cohesive ensemble. Rehearsals are fun and instructive and it's a delight to build from simple parts to an integrated ensemble performance" – CH

"I enjoyed the Guitar Orchestra because it got me playing my guitar again. The selections varied in style and level of difficulty and the atmosphere was relaxed and welcoming...I learned a lot and had a lot of fun with some great people." - Glenn E.