

Shaw Academy
NOTES

Diploma in Guitar



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Lesson 3 Notes

Introduction:

The goal of Lesson 3 and Week 2 is continue developing both the strength in your fretting hand and the coordination between your fretting and picking hands by learning to play melodies.

Define Melodies:

We define melodies to be a sequence of single notes that are perceived as a single entity. By a sequence is meant a definitive pattern of the single notes. By these notes being in a distinct pattern, our brains can easily grasp the sequence of notes. Like the sentences used in spoken word, melodies have a beginning, middle, and end. Some melodies use “commas,” which mean there is a slight break before the notes continue. Melodies can end with a “question mark.” These melodies have no resolution, and the melody will lead into a different part. Melodies also can end in a “period” and even an “exclamation mark.”

During class, we see examples of notes that are and are not melodies. Just because a group of single notes are written together, does not necessarily make them a melody. They need to have all the three characteristics of a melody. One example of a group of notes that is if you have single notes, but there is no definitive pattern or sequence. Consequently, or brains cannot perceive this group of notes as anything. Another example of a group of notes that are not a melody is when there is a definitive sequence but this sequence is made with doubled notes. This is called a harmony.

Learning How to Play Melodies

We then endeavor to learn three melodies.

- Happy Birthday
- Oh Susanna
- No Woman No Cry

To get more information about each of the melodies from these songs, refer to the tablature from Lesson 3 as well as the Lesson 3 Slides.

For these melodies, it is best practice to learn the melodies at these slower tempos. Build up the muscle memory and feel. Only when you are comfortable at a slower speed will you be better enabled to try playing the melodies at their proper speeds. Even to this day, after 20+ years of playing the guitar, I learn songs at a slower tempo first. Because I have spent years doing this, it takes me one or two times to get myself up to speed. When you start off, it will take longer

to play up to speed. The more you practice like this, however, the less and less time you will spend at the slower tempos.

If you would like to take part in the weekly interaction, then please upload a picture of your guitar onto www.facebook.com/shawacademy.

If, at any point, you need assistance or have any questions, please feel free to email me. This concludes the summary for Lesson 3.



THANK YOU

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