

# **Harmony for Guitar**

## ***San Jose School of Guitar***

**[www.sjsg.org](http://www.sjsg.org)**

### ***Babak Falsafi Instructor***

Mondy, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 11:00 to 12:00  
Rome 203

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### **Objectives:**

The student will begin learning the basic fundamentals of guitar harmony. They will be responsible for practicing, perfecting, and applying these fundamentals to perform various styles of music as well as transposing, arranging and orchestrating them.

As a result they will know about and recognize major scales and minor scales.

They will also be able to establish simple and primary chord progressions for melodic lines.

Students will learn the basic tenets of music theory. Concepts covered will include notation, Keys and Key Signatures, dynamics, intervals, chord structure, scales, and basic harmony. Once the students can apply these concepts to their performance, he/she will be an independent musician. As a major result they will be able to:

- 1- Use cadences and make periods, double periods and phrases.
- 2-Transpose melodic lines to different major keys

3-Recognize chords and their inversions.

4- Modulate melodic lines

**Prerequisites:** An understanding of the fundamentals of classical guitar (finger style) technique and musicianship.

Accurately tune the guitar.

Recognize any note in the first position, locate and play it.

The ability to play selected scales and arpeggios.

The ability of performing solo and ensemble pieces for guitar.

The ability to produce commonly used major, minor and dominant seventh chords.

## **Requirements:**

***Attendance:*** regular attendance is essential for successful completion of this course.

Much of the class time will be spent using the guitars in class to realize musical harmonic concepts, therefore any missed classes will be time lost

***Homework:*** Students are expected to keep up with all exercises and pieces throughout the semester. Their practice time outside of class should equal at least 30 minutes a day. If they cannot keep up their daily practice then attendance in class is even more essential and will help them provide progress.

***Guitar Performance and analysis:*** On different occasions students will work on a solo repertoire, simple chord progressions, a special chord progression technique or

harmonic concepts and assignments and then play for me. The repertoire, simple chord progressions, and the special chord progression technique will be recommended by me or maybe of the students choice.

***Course material and text:***

Required: harmony for guitar revised edition by Lance Bosman.

Required: student repertoire series for guitar volumes 1 and 2

***Grading:*** While the grade will be based on percentages of all work the emphasis is in students' attendance and participation because the main goal of this course is in getting the students to discover and explore the beauty of harmonic music on guitar and the pleasure that performing it can bring. There will be occasional performance examinations to be sure students are keeping up with the course material. If they maintain regular attendance and keep up with assignments their progress and subsequently your grade will be high.

Homework, class work and class participation (40%), lab reports, written and oral reports, and research project (20%), quizzes and tests (20%), and a final assessment each semester (20%). All work will be evaluated on a point basis. A letter grade will be assigned at progress report time and at the end of the semester for report card purposes. The semester grade will be based on the cumulative score during the semester plus the final assessment. Grades > .5 will be rounded up.

98 – 100 = A+ 88 – 89 = B+ 78 – 79 = C+ 68 – 69 = D+

93 – 97 = A 83 – 87 = B 73 – 77 = C 63 – 67 = D

90 – 92 = A- 80 – 82 = B- 70 – 72 = C- 60 – 62 = D-

the final grade of this course is based on a combination of homework, class work, quizzes, long papers, class performance and a final assessment test.

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#### ***Course overview and outline:***

##### ***Class 1: Introduction to harmony for guitar***

Students will be welcome by their teacher and receive the syllabus.

##### ***Class 2: the nature of the scales***

modes, major scales, the whole tone scales, pentatonic scales

##### ***Class 3: intervals***

naming intervals, consonance and dissonance

##### ***Class 4: basic chord progressions***

primary chords, cadences, keys, secondary chords

##### ***Class 5: transposition***

transposing popular major keys, modal transposition, chord transposition

##### ***Class 6: inversions***

first inversions, second inversions

##### ***Class 7: minor keys***

minor key scales, minor key harmony, inversions, transposition, major or minor key relationships

***Class 8: the suspension and the dominant seventh***

suspensions, dominant seventh in major keys, dominant seventh in minor keys

***Class 9: modulation and the diminished seventh chord***

modulation in major keys, modulation to related keys, modulation in minor keys, diminished seventh chord, diminished seventh scale

***Class 10: extended chords***

major minor seventh chords, sixth, ninth and 13th chords

***Class 11: recent developments***

unrelated triads, modern dissonant counterpoint

***Class 12: remaining uses of seventh chords***

modern music and new additions to harmony standards