






Lesson 3 - Teachers/Leaders Notes

Lesson 3 looks at picking the individual notes G and A on open strings and the note C using a single finger, before introducing the concept of improvisation, which will be used extensively in future lessons.

Objectives

-  To practice picking over two open strings - differentiating between two separate notes.
-  To read simple crotchet and quaver rhythmic notation.
-  To improvise rhythmically, using a single note or chord.

By the end of the lesson;

All students will be able to pick in time on one or more strings. They will recognise the term improvisation to mean making up their own music

and will be able to play at least one note or chord on their own as a means on improvising.

Most students will be able to pick a simple melody over two notes and find the note C using one finger on the neck. They will be able to make a simple rhythmic improvisation using one or more notes.

Some students will be able to accurately play a melody over the notes G and A moving quickly and smoothly over two strings. They will be able to find the note C quickly and produce a clear picked sound. Their improvisation will have a varied and creative rhythmic pattern to it.

Helpful Hints



Picking a G and A requires the top and bottom string, the obvious distance between these strings may pose some difficulty to some students who struggle with dexterity. Don't worry if they need to just play either A or G you could always split into pairs and play one each.



The note C and the C Major chord place your finger in the same place. This is caused by the notes the other open strings are tuned to and sadly doesn't apply to other major chords.

Students will often get the C note and the C Major chord muddled up because of this. Make sure you are always clear whether you want the note or chord.



Improvisation can be a bit scary, especially when you need to play solo (on your own) whilst it might be tempting to give more nervous players a pass if they don't play, improvisation can be a wonderful tool to build up confidence. Make it clear that one note or chord counts as improvising and for the first few lessons at least is allowed. You will be surprised how quickly they start adding a few more once they gain the confidence.