

Classical Guitar Corner

Certificate Courses

By Simon Powis - August 2017

What are the Certificate Courses?

Classical Guitar Corner has an extensive curriculum that covers the rather complex world of classical guitar education. With hundreds of concepts and skills to work on, it is important to stay focused and structured with your study. It will help you practice and results in a steady path of progress.

The certificate courses have arranged all of the material at Classical Guitar Corner into a step-by-step roadmap. Replete with technique, theory, musicianship, repertoire, sight reading, and notation, these courses are powerful learning tools.

To provide motivation and goal setting while undertaking these certificate courses, you can choose to submit performances and self assessments for various landmarks along the way.

In return for your efforts you will receive personalized feedback and advice on your playing along with the sense of accomplishment for reaching your musical goals.

Preliminary Certificate Submissions

Preliminary Certificate Submissions are provided so that you can “check in” and receive feedback on your playing and progress during the course. It provides you with fewer repertoire requirements and less demanding techniques.

Certificate Submissions

Certificate Submissions are offered to provide you with medium- to long-term goals. The repertoire and technical routines have been carefully chosen and designed to give you a comprehensive and well-rounded education in classical music and classical guitar.

Each level represents a substantial amount of work on your part, but it has proven very successful at keeping students motivated and progressing in a structured manner.

Please submit your certificate performance only if you have followed all of the requirements, otherwise you will be asked to re-submit. In addition, you are welcome to ask for feedback in one of the many live sessions at CGC, this will be a good way to gauge if you are ready to submit or not.

How do they compare with grades?

A question that is often asked, is how do the Levels compare to Grades found in the various exam institutions around the world (AMEB, ABRSM, etc.)

The answer is that they align quite well. Here is a quick approximate reference:

- Level 1 Preliminary = Grade 1
- Level 1 Certificate = Grade 2
- Level 2 Preliminary = Grade 3
- Level 2 Certificate = Grade 4
- Level 3 Preliminary = Grade 5
- Level 3 Certificate = Grade 6

Submission Dates

You can submit your preliminary or certificate submissions three times each year.

The submission deadlines are:

- **February 1st**
- **June 1st**
- **October 1st**

Submissions open **one month prior** to the deadline. So if you want to submit by the October deadline, for example, you have the whole month of September to submit.

Submissions that are posted after the deadline will not be accepted. We also urge you not to submit early, as submissions can be easily lost in the mix.

Where to Submit

Your videos and self-assessment should be submitted in the Certificate Submissions Forum on classicalguitarcorner.com. Videos can be uploaded (and marked as unlisted if you like) on YouTube then embedded (copy and paste the video URL) into the forum.

Other members will be able to see your submission, as you will also be able to see submissions by other students.

Submission Responses

Preliminary Certificate Submissions

Preliminary Certificate Submissions will receive written feedback with a pass/re-submit grade. These responses will most likely *not* be made by Simon due to the amount of submissions we receive.

There are no personalized certificates for the preliminary levels.

Certificate Submissions

Certificate Submissions will receive personalized video responses with a pass/re-submit grade. These responses are from Simon and usually range between 15 and 30 minutes.

If you are successful in your Certificate Submission you will receive a personalized certificate (PDF) which you can print and hang on your wall!

You are also welcome and encouraged to share your video response in the same forum thread as your submission, but it is up to you.

A word on pass/re-submit

Studying classical guitar at CGC is something that should be fun and enjoyable, albeit a little challenging! We want you to develop solid fundamentals that will serve you as you progress,

and these certificates are a way of making sure that you are ready to progress to more difficult tasks.

If you do not pass a certificate submission, please know that this is done in your interest and as teachers we cannot responsibly let students advance if we can see there are some problems that need addressing first.

All of this is in the name of learning, and I hope that you will take this into account when you receive your response.

Preliminary Certificate Level 1

Technique

From “Technical Routine #2,” in *7 Progressive Technical Routines Level 1*

Exercises are to be played at MM=80 (quarter note equals 80)

- Exercise 1 “Alternation”
- Exercise 2 “Thumbs Up”
- Exercise 3 “Happy Couples”
- G Major and C Major scales ascending and descending

Submit these exercises in one unedited video

Repertoire

Two pieces of selected repertoire from the *10 Progressive Pieces Level 1* book.

#1 Set piece: Study No.2 by Fernando Sor

#2 Free choice from:

- *Study No. 1* by Fernando Sor
- *Study No.3* by Fernando Sor
- *Waltz* by Ferdinando Carulli
- *Wals* by Dionisio Aguado

These two pieces may be recorded as separate videos or as one continuous performance

Your playing will be graded on the following criteria:

- Rhythm
- Right- and left-hand position
- Sitting position and general posture
- Accuracy

Self-Assessment

Submit a **written review of your course experience (min 200 words)**. Please describe the challenges you have encountered so far in the course and how you dealt with them, what strengths you noticed in your own playing and musicianship, and what your goals are for the next six months of playing.

Level 1 Certificate

To get your Level 1 certificate you will need to have **marked all lessons as complete, submit two video recordings and a course review.**

Technique

Technical Routine #5 from 7 Progressive Technical Routines Level 1
MM=60 (Play scales as quarter notes)

Submit this routine in one unedited video

Repertoire

Three pieces from *10 Progressive Pieces* Level 1

Set piece: Etude #1 by Mauro Giuliani

The other two pieces are free choice, however, if you have submitted a preliminary exam, you may not re-submit the same pieces.

These pieces must be performed in one unedited recording (like a performance)

Your playing will be graded on the following criteria:

- Rhythm
- Right- and left-hand position
- Sitting position and general posture
- Accuracy
- Tone Production
- Phrasing and General Musicality
- Consistent right hand alternation

Self-Assessment

Submit a **written review of your course experience (min 200 words)**. Please describe the challenges you have encountered so far in the course and how you dealt with them, what strengths you noticed in your own playing and musicianship, and what your goals are for the next six months of playing.

Preliminary Certificate Level 2

Technique

Technical Routine #2 from 5 Progressive Technical Routines Level 2
MM=55

Submit this routine in one unedited video

Repertoire

Two pieces from *12 Progressive Pieces* Level 2

#1 Set piece: Etude in D Major by Fernando Sor

#2 Free choice from:

- Rujero by Gaspar Sanz
- Espanoleta by Gaspar Sanz
- Menuet by Dionisio Aguado
- Lesson 19 by Dionisio Aguado

These pieces must be performed in one unedited recording (like a performance)

Your playing will be graded on the following criteria:

- Rhythm
- Right- and left-hand position
- Tone Production
- Phrasing and musicality
- Consistent right hand alternation
- Accuracy

Self-Assessment

Submit a **written review of your course experience (min 200 words)**. Please describe the challenges you have encountered so far in the course and how you dealt with them, what strengths you noticed in your own playing and musicianship, and what your goals are for the next six months of playing.

Level 2 Certificate

To get your Level 1 certificate you will need to have **marked all lessons as complete, submit two video recordings and a course review.**

Technique

Technical Routine #5 from 5 Progressive Technical Routines Level 2

MM=60

Submit this routine in one unedited video

Repertoire

Four pieces from *12 Progressive Pieces* Level 2

Set piece: *Minuet in G* by C. Petzold

The other three pieces are free choice, however, if you have submitted a preliminary exam, you may not re-submit the same pieces.

These pieces must be performed in one unedited recording (like a performance)

Your playing will be graded on the following criteria:

- Rhythm
- Right- and left-hand position
- Sitting position and general posture
- Accuracy
- Tone Production
- Phrasing and General Musicality
- Consistent right hand alternation

Self-Assessment

Submit a **written review of your course experience (min 200 words)**. Please describe the challenges you have encountered so far in the course and how you dealt with them, what strengths you noticed in your own playing and musicianship, and what your goals are for the next six months of playing.

Preliminary Level 3 Certificate

Technique

Technical Routine #1 from 5 Progressive Technical Routines Level 3
MM=70 (play scales as eighth notes)

Submit this routine in one unedited video

Repertoire

Three pieces from *11 Recital Pieces* Level 3

#1 Set piece: *Bouree* by J.S. Bach

#2 Free choice from:

Prelude by DeVisee, Study in D Major by Sor, Study in B Minor by Sor, Etude 7 by Carcassi.

These pieces must be performed in one unedited recording (like a performance)

Your playing will be graded on the following criteria:

- Rhythmic Accuracy
- Right- and left-hand position
- Tone Production
- Phrasing and musicality
- Dynamics
- Articulation
- Independence of left hand fingers
- Independence of right hand fingers
- Accuracy
- Fluency

Self-Assessment

Submit a **written review of your course experience (min 200 words)**. Please describe the challenges you have encountered so far in the course and how you dealt with them, what strengths you noticed in your own playing and musicianship, and what your goals are for the next six months of playing.

Level 3 Certificate

Technique

Technical Routine #4 from 5 Progressive Technical Routines Level 3

MM=74 (Play scales as eighth notes - "Artificial Harmonics" can be at MM=50)

Submit this routine in one unedited video

Repertoire

Five pieces from *11 Recital Pieces* Level 3

One piece by Sor, one piece by Tarrega, one piece by Carcassi and two free choice pieces (from the Level 3 book). If you have submitted a preliminary exam, you must use different pieces from the book. These pieces must be performed in one unedited recording (like a performance)

Your playing will be graded on the following criteria:

- Rhythmic Accuracy
- Right- and left-hand position
- Tone Production
- Phrasing and musicality
- Dynamics
- Articulation and Legato
- Independence of left hand fingers
- Independence of right hand fingers
- Accuracy and Fluency

Improvisation

One improvisation over Progression #5 from the Theory Through Improvisation Lessons.
(Backing tracks available in the V7 Lesson)

Self-Assessment

Submit a **written review of your course experience (min 200 words)**. Please describe the challenges you have encountered so far in the course and how you dealt with them, what strengths you noticed in your own playing and musicianship, and what your goals are for the next six months of playing.

