



Bear Claw Music[®]

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Curriculum—Keith Knight

- I. Fingerstyle Guitar
 1. Overview
 - a. fingerstyle v. flat picking
 - b. where did guitar come from: modern era
 - c. genres—where guitar is found
 2. Techniques
 3. Sharpening your skills
 - a. practical exercises—OL
 - b. metronome
 4. styles of playing specific to various types of guitars
- II. Music Genres
 1. Understanding fingerstyle guitar and the various music forms associated with it
 - a. what makes fingerstyle guitar different: examples, i.e., rhythmic accompaniment, melodic leads
 2. What is "folk music"?—blues to calypso
- III. Slide Playing
 1. Overview
 - a. varieties of slide playing and slides themselves
 2. Do's and don'ts
 3. Techniques
 4. exercises
- IV. Songwriting with fingerstyle guitar
 1. Approaches to writing
 - a. instrumentation (music) v. lyrics
 - b. what should you focus on?
 - c. humming the melody
 - d. coherence
 - e. hook, hook, hook
 - f. why are you playing it that way?
 2. Techniques

- V. Live Performance
 - 1. preparation
 - 2. myth v. reality
 - 3. sound reinforcement considerations
 - 4. techniques
 - 5. stage fright
 - 6. what you hear; what the audience hears
 - 7. tempo

- VI. Recording
 - 1. preparation
 - 2. metronome, production
 - 3. know what you're going to do before you do it
 - 4. the punch in—making life easier
 - 5. if it needs to be redone—re do it.
 - 6. myth v. reality
 - 7. techniques

- VII. The Business of Folk/Traditional Music
 - 1. O' Career, Wherefore art thou?
 - 2. myths/realities
 - 3. business plan

- VIII. On Guitars
 - 1. technical considerations
 - 2. which instrument is right for you