

Thursday, Nov 05, 2015

Guitar for Everyone

Have you always wanted to play the guitar? According to a recent article in "Guitar World" you wouldn't regret it. They offered their top ten reasons to play the guitar and among them were "be the life of the party."

That might be enough right there, but "form a band and join the circus," and "enlightenment" also sound pretty good. Whatever your guitar-playing goals may be, Oakland University has the class for you.

The **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** offers Beginning Guitar group guitar classes. You will learn chords, how to read music, the blues progression, pop and rock tunes and more!

If a group experience isn't your style, you can take individual lessons.

Whichever option you choose, guitar instructor **Bret Hoag** encourages any student with an interest in music, but no previous experience, to grab this opportunity. "Look outside your major," he said. "This can help you become a well-rounded renaissance person." For more information email Bret Hoag at hoag2@oakland.edu.

Students with guitar experience and an interest in live performance can join the OU Guitar Ensemble. The eclectic ensemble currently has 15 members and performs works for guitar from around the world. Their first performance of the season is next Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall. Admission is free. This concert will feature works by Leo Brouwer, Maro Giuliani, Francisco Tarrega, Maximo Pujol, Manuel de Falla, Fernando Sor, and Ferdinando Carulli, as well as the premiere of *Pent-Up!* by John C. Griffin. *Pent-Up!* is a new piece for five guitars commissioned by OU Guitar Ensemble director Bret Hoag.

Adding to the excitement, *Pent-Up!* will be a collaborative project, which features the choreography of dance professors **Ali Woerner** and **Thayer Jonutz**, performed by OU dancers. "Having the Guitar Ensemble and the Repertory Dance Company join forces to present a visual interpretation of a musical work is an annual tradition," said Thayer Jonutz. "Both the faculty and students look forward to it."



OU Guitar Ensemble