

# Alternate Ensemble Resources

Beginner Singer/Song-  
Writer Ensemble:  
Getting Started



# Function of the Class

- Teaches the fundamentals of songwriting: lyric writing and storytelling, chord progression development, melody development, song structure
- Teaches basic skills on guitar; could also include piano skills, based on teacher/student preference or popular trends in music of the time
- Teaches basic music theory concepts
- Teaches basic performance skills and etiquette

# Seating`



## Allows for:

- Students to hear and see everyone easily
- The classroom to function as a social learning community
- Collaborative, jam-session-like environment
- Goal of smaller class and even number; 12-14
- May be auditioned, but does not have to be

# Class/Rehearsal Structure: 2 Halves



Instrument Rotation




Lyric  
Analysis/Writing  
Exercise



# Class/Rehearsal Structure: 2 Halves

## Half 1: Instrument Rotation

- 
- 1<sup>st</sup> Half of class
  - Students practice chords/fingerpicking based on progression of skill benchmarks
  - Different Possible Methods:**
    - Students all must learn guitar techniques at the very least
    - Students can choose what instrument to work on at any given time
    - Students must learn guitar chords and may choose secondary instrument

# Class/Rehearsal Structure: 2 Halves

## Half 1: Instrument Rotation

- Would also include lessons on music theory; students would build to a basic understanding of:
  - Key Signatures
  - Time Signatures
  - Diatonic Chords/Types of Chords (major, minor, diminished, augmented)
  - Roman Numeral Analysis
  - Chord Progressions
- This would be embedded into the learning of instrument skills, by having conversations about the chord progressions of popular songs that they will be practicing along to

# Class/Rehearsal Structure: 2 Halves

## Half 1: Instrument Rotation

Examples of songs students may play along to or study to understand concepts:

### • Time Signatures (other than 4/4)

- 3/4:
  - “Piano Man” by Billy Joel
  - “Edelweiss” by Bill Lee
- 6/8:
  - “Punisher” by Phoebe Bridgers
  - “Someone New” by Laufey
- 5/4:
  - “Icon” by Ohmme
  - “Closure” by Taylor Swift

### • Common Chord Progressions

- I – vi – I
  - “Send my Love” by Adele
  - “Truth Hurts” by Lizzo
- I – [X] – IV – iv:
  - Chorus of “Savior Complex” by Phoebe Bridgers
  - “Someone New” by Laufey
- vi – IV – I – V:
  - “Wake Me Up” by Avicii
  - “Little Talks” by Of Monsters and Men
- I – V – vi – IV:
  - “I’m Yours” by Jason Mraz
  - “Perfect” by P!nk

# Example of Half 1 Activity

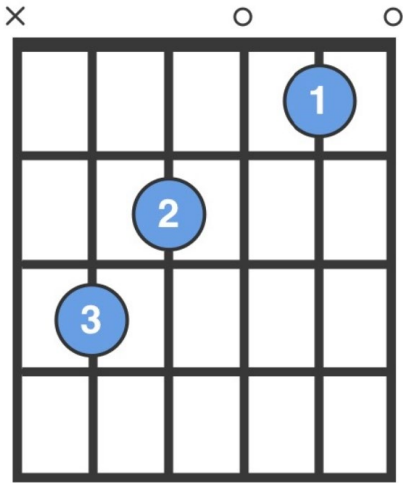
## -In Instrument Rotation, Students Will:

- Be introduced to/review chords, popular chord progressions, popular fingerpicking patterns and strumming rhythms
  - These chords and patterns become progressively more complicated as year continues
  - Progress on ability to play chords consecutively will be assessed by benchmark quizzes
- Look at displayed tablature
  - Students take time to figure out and explore what finger positions feel like
- Practice strumming and switching between chords/picking the pattern in time
  - This can occur along to: a beat track; an accompaniment track; or a popular song that incorporates chords being studied

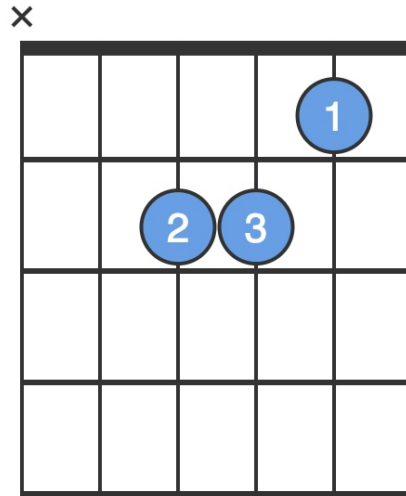


# Example of Half 1 Activity

C Major



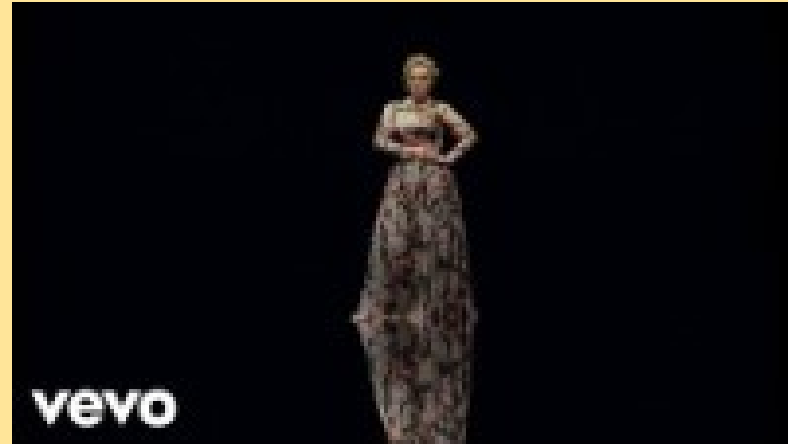
A Minor



## Structure:

1. Students fiddle around, figure out their fingers
2. Students play each chord unified multiple times
3. Students attempt to strum along to a popular song

Send My Love- Adele



# Half 1: Instruments/Equipment & Pricing



**\$199.99**

Fender FA-115 Dreadnought Pack V2 Natural

Comes with:

Guitar w/ strings; soft case; shoulder-strap; picks; spare strings;  
free 90-day trial of Fender Play



**\$189.99**

Yamaha GigMaker Standard Acoustic Pack

Comes with:

Guitar w/ strings; soft case; shoulder-strap; picks;  
digital chromatic tuner



# Half 1: Instruments/Equipment & Pricing



**\$149.99**

Ibanez JamPack IJV50 Quickstart Dreadnought Acoustic Guitar Pack  
Natural

Comes with:

V50 Acoustic Guitar; soft case; shoulder-strap; picks; electronic tuner; accessory pouch



**\$139.99**

Rogue RD80PK Dreadnought Acoustic Guitar Pack

Comes with:

RD80 Acoustic Guitar; soft case; shoulder-strap; picks; extra set of strings; pitch pipe for tuning; chord chart

# Half 1: Instruments/ Equipment & Pricing



**\$179.99**

Yamaha C40 GigMaker Classical Acoustic Guitar Pack (Natural)

Comes with:

C40 Nylon String Guitar; soft case; electronic tuner



**\$95.00**

Yamaha C40 GigMaker Classical Acoustic Guitar Pack (Natural)

Comes with:

Concert Ukulele w/ strings; soft case; electronic tuner; guidebook

# Half 1: Instruments/ Equipment & Pricing

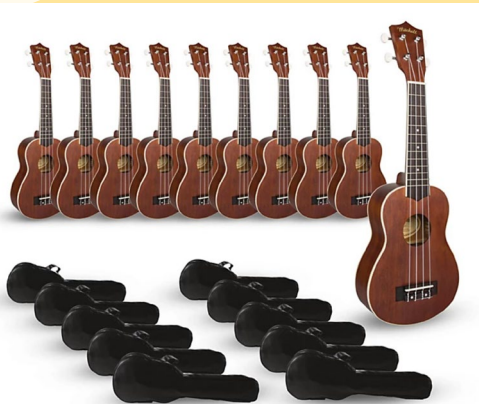


**\$89.67**

Ohala KPP-C Concert Ukulele Player Pack Natural

Comes with:

Concert Ukulele w/ strings; soft case; electronic tuner; starter booklet



**\$369.99**

Mitchell MU40 Soprano Ukulele Classroom 10-pack

Comes with:

10 Soprano Ukuleles w/ strings; 10 soft cases



# Half 1: Instruments/ Equipment & Pricing



\$5.79

Fender 351 Shape  
Celluloid Medley  
Guitar Picks  
Medium 12-pack



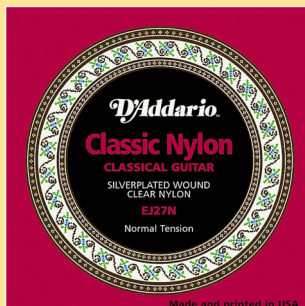
\$6.99

Fender 351 Shape  
Felt Ukulele Pick  
3.0 mm 3-pack



\$29.99

Ernie Ball 2003  
Earthwood 80/20  
Bronze Medium  
Light Acoustic  
Strings 6-pack



\$6.49

D'Addario EJ27N  
Normal  
Tension  
Classical Guitar  
Strings



\$10.49

Aquila Red  
Series  
Concert/  
Soprano  
Ukulele  
Strings

# Half 1: Instruments/Equipment & Pricing



\$119.99

Casio Casiotone CT-S200 Portable Keyboard (61 keys)  
Includes 400 tones and 77 rhythms, USB and MIDI connections



\$199.00

Casio Casiotone CT-S1 Portable Keyboard (61 keys)  
Includes 60 AiX-powered tones/patches

# Half 1: Instruments/Equipment & Pricing



\$109.99

Shure SM57 Stand and Cable Package



\$129.00

Shure stage performance kit with SM58 microphone



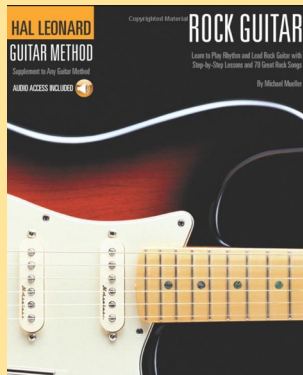
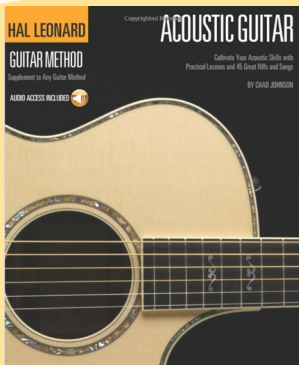
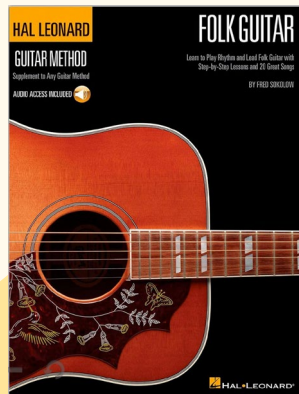
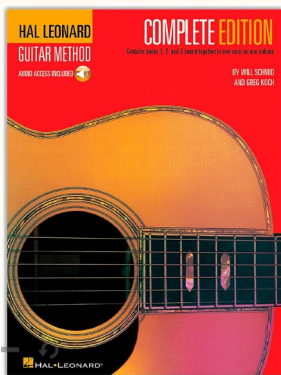
# Half 1: Instruments/ Equipment & Pricing



**\$199.99-279.99**

Vox Go 3 – 3-watt OR 10-watt portable amp

# Half 1: Method Books/Texts



All ~\$15-17

Respectively:

- Hal Leonard Guitar Method Complete Edition
- Hal Leonard Folk Guitar
- Hal Leonard Acoustic Guitar
- Hal Leonard Fingerstyle Guitar Songs
- Hal Leonard Rock Guitar

# Class/Rehearsal Structure: 2 Halves

## Lyric Analysis/Writing Exercise

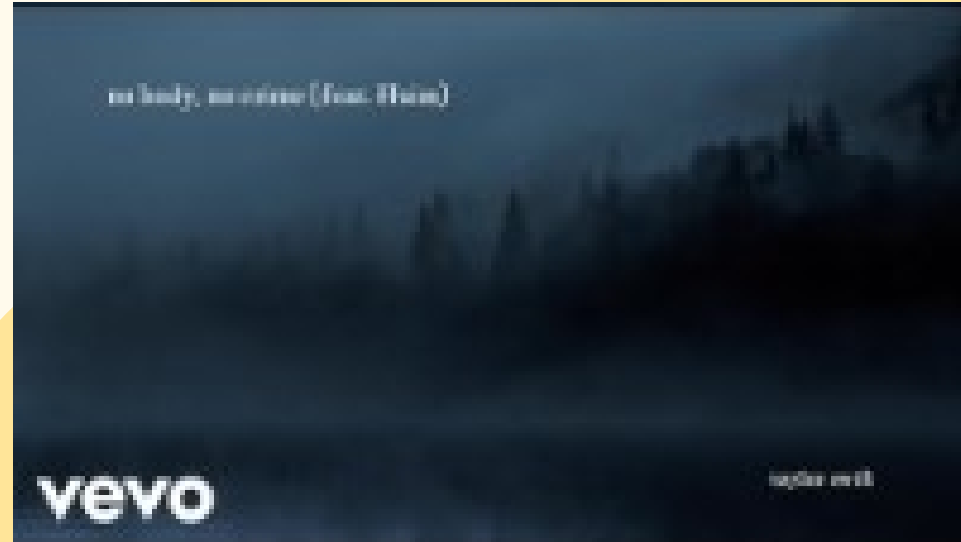
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Half of class
- Many Activity Options!
- Starting out, every 2<sup>nd</sup> half consists of activities dealing with:
  - Lyric Analysis
  - Literature/Poetic Devices
  - Song structure
  - Melody Writing
- **-As year progresses, differentiate:**
  - Music tech/recording workshop
  - Genre & instrumentation exploration
  - Performer Exploration
  - Performance Workshop
  - Career exploration day
  - Time for just working on songwriting projects/experimenting
  - Performance Days

# Example of Half 2 Activity

## Structure/Lyric Analysis Worksheet:

- Describe the structure/form of “No Body, No Crime”
- How does the way Taylor Swift has structured her song affect how the story is told?
- Is her story conveyed effectively? Why or why not?
- Use this to inform their own story-song

No Body, No Crime- Taylor Swift  
(Lyric Video)



# Class/Rehearsal Structure: 2 Halves

## Half 1: Instrument Rotation

Examples of songs students listen to or analyze to understand song structure and subjects:

- 
- Song Structures
    - Traditional Verse-Chorus-Verse-Chorus-Bridge-Chorus:
      - “good 4 u” by Olivia Rodrigo
      - “Just the Way You Are” by Bruno Mars
    - AAA:
      - “House of the Rising Sun” by The Animals
    - AABA:
      - “Yesterday” by the Beatles
      - “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” by Israel Kamakawiwo‘ole
  - Song Subjects/Prompts
    - Character Songs:
      - “Eleanor Rigby” by the Beatles
      - “Magnolia” by Laufey
    - Story Songs:
      - “Escape (the Piña Colada Song)” by Rupert Holmes
      - “Temporary Home” by
    - Songs About Societal Experiences/Political Events
      - “The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll” by Bob Dylan
      - “Get Up, Stand Up” by Bob Marley and the Wailers

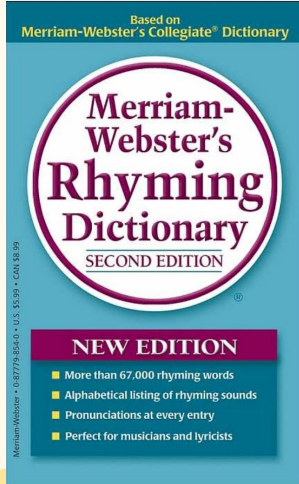
# Example of Half 2 Activity

## Performance Days

- Students will, after being given a songwriting prompt, will be assigned a date to have it finished and ready to perform for peers
- Sitting in circle, peers will watch each other perform
- Students will fill out peer assessment sheet, filling out a rubric and providing constructive criticism for students to improve their songs, their performance skills, etc.
- Students will fill out a self-reflection sheet, to assess both the quality of their song and of their performance to see how they think the could improve
- With permission, students' performances may be recorded for reflection and review

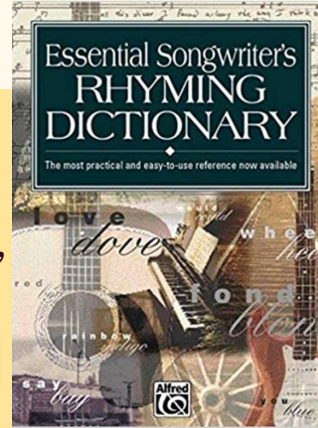


# Half 2: Method Books/Texts



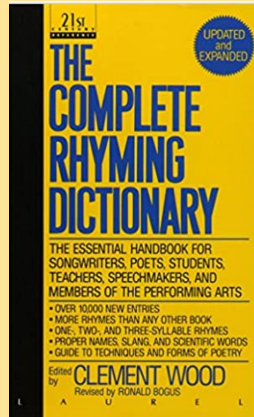
\$4.99

Merriam-Webster's  
Rhyming Dictionary,  
Second Edition



\$7.02

Essential Songwriter's  
Rhyming Dictionary:  
Pocket Size Book



\$8.99

The Complete Rhyming  
Dictionary: Including  
The Poet's Craft Book