

Missouri Western State University Boasts Guitar Program

In the past three years, the Guitar Program of the Department of Music at Missouri Western State University has exploded into one of the most recognized and progressive guitar centers in the Midwest. The program has grown from 2 guitar majors to 18, surpassing the region's largest guitar departments, including the leading departments in Minneapolis, New Orleans, St. Louis, Kansas City and Chicago.

With this unprecedented growth, Missouri Western has recently developed a progressive, new concept in formal, university-level guitar study.

Most guitarists entering college have less traditional background in music than other instrumentalists. With that in mind, Glise, Riley and Dr. Matt Gilmour (Head, Department of Music) have designed a degree program that addresses the practical needs of those guitarists.

The first two years of study involves traditional music studies with emphasis on classical guitar taught by international classical guitarist, composer and author, Anthony Glise.

This course of study develops the student's technique, musicianship and literature awareness and in the final two

years, the student has the option of either continuing classical guitar studies or switching to commercial music guitar taught by famed jazz/rock guitarist, Jason Riley.

This second phase of the study focuses on studio and commercial guitar playing in rock, jazz, funk, bluegrass and country styles as well as equipment and career development.

Guitar majors may also opt for a degree emphasis in one of two subject areas: Music Business (including marketing, accounting and other pertinent subjects) or Music Technology (including arranging, studio engineering, and production).

Additional classes include Guitar Pedagogy (learning how to teach) based on Glise's university/conservatory textbook, Classical Guitar Pedagogy and Guitar History and Literature (team taught by Glise and Riley. Other class options include Guitar Ensemble and Career Development.

According to Glise, "There are thousands of talented musicians that enter guitar programs worldwide every semester but most of these programs only teach the student to play - not how to survive in the music business after they graduate. What we have designed is a degree program that not only teaches students the instrument, but what to do with that knowledge to make money after they graduate."

Riley added, "...success in the music business has nothing to do with luck and everything to do with being prepared. That type of preparation for success is exactly what we've designed in the guitar program at Missouri Western. The fact the Missouri Western has just been granted University status will further heighten the profile of the entire music department."

Much of the international recognition of Missouri Western's guitar program is due to the university's sponsorship of the St. Joseph International Guitar Festival & Competition, one of the largest and most progressive guitar festivals in the US, which has hosted world-renowned scholars and guitarists from Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Russia, Serbia, Uruguay and throughout the US. For details, see:

<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/guitarfestival/>

Dr. Matt Gilmour, Head of the Department of Music at Missouri Western and former private composition student of famed Italian composer, Luciano Berio, said, "We have developed a truly multifaceted guitar program, unique and incredibly practical for the student's long term career development. I'm extremely proud to offer this degree program at Missouri Western."

The tremendous design of the guitar program at Missouri Western offers a rare learning situation for serious guitar students and an exciting, practical course of study that helps insure success in the music industry long after graduation.

For further information about the Guitar Program at Missouri Western State University, contact:

Department of Music—Guitar Program
Missouri Western State University
4525 Downs Dr .

St. Joseph, MO 64507-2294 — USA

email: music@missouriwestern.edu

tele: USA + (816) 271-4420

fax: USA + (816) 271-5974

See also:

<http://www.AnthonyGlise.com>

<http://www.JasonRiley.com>

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