

Fingerstyle Guitar Workshop with Shawna Caspi

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Curious about alternate guitar tunings? Always wanted to try fingerpicking but not sure where to start? This workshop will explore the performance capacity of the guitar beyond strummed chords.

Suggested Audience: Participants should already have some knowledge of the acoustic guitar (basic chords, understanding of how to tune the instrument, etc.) This is not a guitar skills instruction class, but rather a workshop that explores the possibilities of the instrument and inspires players to stretch their perceptions of what they can do with it.

Participants might include:

- Guitar players who strum but who have always wanted to try fingerpicking
- Guitar players who want to explore alternate tunings but aren't sure where to start
- Anyone interested in learning more about the different sounds a guitar can make besides simple strumming
- Songwriters who want to make their guitar accompaniment more complex

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Open tunings:

- Major chord structures (open D, open G)
- Suspended chord structures
- Inventing your own open tunings

Picking patterns:

- laying down a bass line with your thumb
- examples of popular picking patterns (arpeggios, Travis picking, etc.)
- experimenting with rhythmic emphasis and creating grooves

Percussive elements:

- slapping
- muting
- hammer on/pull off combinations
- harmonics

Goals: For beginners, I hope the workshop will inspire creative experimentation and help you get to know the guitar on a deeper level. For more advanced participants, I hope it will offer some playing tips and technique exercises that you can apply to your existing practice. For those who write music or accompany yourselves on the guitar, I hope you are inspired to attempt more complex and intricate musical arrangements of your own.

Shawna