

Mike Dana Private Lesson Questionnaire

Thank you so much for inquiring about guitar lessons. I have found that the more I know about your goals, experience, previous studies, etc., the more I am able to make our time together as productive as possible. If you would take a few minutes to think about the questions below, and shoot me a quick email in advance of our first lesson with your responses, I can have materials ready to send to you a few days before we meet.

- How long have you been seriously studying jazz guitar?
- Please let me know what types of studies this includes: private lessons, improvisation or jazz theory classes, etc.
- What types of jazz guitar performance experiences have you had?
- What jazz guitarists have influenced you, and what jazz guitarist do you enjoy listening to now?
- What are a few other jazz artists (non-guitarists) you enjoy listening to?
- One a 1 – 10 scale (1 = low, 10 = high) how would you rate your:
 - Knowledge of major and minor scale positions on the fingerboard
 - Knowledge of major, minor, and dominant jazz chord voicings on the fingerboard
 - Knowledge of music theory in general, and jazz theory in particular
 - Ability to “play what you hear” on your first try
 - Sight reading ability
 - Overall knowledge of the fingerboard; do you always know the names of the notes you are playing, or is it more shape/pattern driven?
 - Right hand technique
 - Left hand technique
- What do you feel you need to improve upon? Start with the most important things first.
- What is your long-term goal as a jazz guitarist?
- Optional: please send a short recording (audio or video) of you playing something, ideally reflecting what you’d like to cover in the lessons.
- As you can tell from the above, I prefer working with students who have some jazz guitar experience (as opposed to beginners.) I appreciate your responses! ☺

Scheduling: I prefer to schedule lessons on a “when you are ready” basis, rather than weekly. I’ll load you up with materials and provide assignments; when you feel it’s time to move forward, let me know. I’m in California, Pacific time zone. For overseas students...we’ll get creative ☺. I do a good amount of traveling, jazz festivals, workshops, etc. and I do appreciate your patience when it comes to scheduling.

ZOOM students: This link has some good info for the best ZOOM settings for music lessons: <https://www.lessonface.com/best-audio-settings-zoom-music-lessons-and-classes> . I record each Zoom lesson, and will send you the link when it’s available.

Fees: (as of summer 2026) I charge \$80 for a one hour lesson, \$110 for a 90 minute lesson. I also spend additional time preparing your materials and assignments. I don’t accept a lot of students, and I really try to focus my energy on the students I do have. I use Venmo and Zelle (US only), hope that will work for you! International students, let’s chat. ☺

I know...this seems like a lot of info. But it’s important to me that your lesson time is focused and productive. Feel free to reach out via email if you have questions between the lessons. Thanks!!

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