

## **Workshop: The Perpetual Beginner**

*Techniques for teaching adult students*

A look at the instructional materials available to the average guitar hobbyist might suggest that there are two kinds of guitar students: beginners (“Guitar For Dummies” ) and experienced aficionados (“50 killer sweep picking licks”). But in fact, the average adult guitar student has played for years but still has more enthusiasm than skill, and more desire to play than time to actually do it.

These students are the “perpetual beginners”, and they form a vast middle that is underserved by current methods. They often move from teacher to teacher, in and out of lessons, or simply struggle to progress using videos and tablature. But because most online methods and many teachers place the emphasis on the song rather than the skills, they often fall short.

In his book *The Perpetual Beginner*, Dave Isaacs explores the way looking at music with fresh ears and an open mind paves the way for new progress and growth. This workshop explores this idea in depth, applying the concept to practicing, choosing material, performance, and even how you listen and understand music. Through a combination of motivational stories, foundation lessons in ear training and technique, and a sound practice method, a teacher can break the perpetual beginner cycle by teaching the student to approach their work with this beginner’s mindset.

Dave Isaacs is a Nashville-based musician, teacher, and writer known as the “Guitar Guru of Music Row” for his work coaching players, performing artists, and songwriters to be better musicians. Dave’s students include touring professionals, hit songwriters, and the next generation of Nashville’s rising stars. His book “*The Perpetual Beginner: a musician’s path to lifelong learning*” is available on Amazon.com and anywhere books are sold.