Unit 3: Scales, Solos and Improvisation

Content Area: **Arts**
Course(s): **Guitar**
Time Period: **Semester 1 & 2**
Length: **5 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Resources

- Yousician Instructional Software (https://yousician.com/schools)
- Stratocaster and Les Paul
- Chordify.com Performance Software (https://chordify.net/)
- FL Studio Recording Software (https://www.image-line.com/flstudio/)
- Ultimate Guitar Tabs Website (https://www.ultimate-guitar.com/)

Standards

1.3C.12adv.Cr2a	Select and develop composed and improvised ideas into draft musical works organized for a variety of purposes and contexts.
1.3C.12adv.Pr4	Selecting, analyzing and interpreting work.
	Select, Analyze, Interpret
1.3C.12adv.Pr4a	Develop and apply criteria to select varied programs to study and perform based on an understanding of theoretical and structural characteristics and expressive challenges in the music, the technical skill of the individual or ensemble, and the purpose and context of the performance.
VPA.1.1.12.B	Music
VPA.1.1.12.B.1	Examine how aspects of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords, and harmonic progressions are organized and manipulated to establish unity and variety in genres of musical compositions.
VPA.1.1.12.B.2	Synthesize knowledge of the elements of music in the deconstruction and performance of complex musical scores from diverse cultural contexts.
VPA.1.3.12.B	Music
VPA.1.3.12.B.4	Arrange simple pieces for voice or instrument using a variety of traditional and nontraditional sound sources or electronic media, and/or analyze prepared scores using music composition software.
VPA.1.3.12.B.CS1	Technical accuracy, musicality, and stylistic considerations vary according to genre, culture, and historical era.
VPA.1.3.12.B.CS2	The ability to read and interpret music impacts musical fluency.
VPA.1.3.12.B.CS3	Understanding of how to manipulate the elements of music is a contributing factor to musical artistry.
VPA.1.3.12.B.CS4	Basic vocal and instrumental arranging skills require theoretical understanding of music composition.
CAEP.9.2.12.C.3	Identify transferable career skills and design alternate career plans.
TECH.8.1.12.A	Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems and operations.

TECH.8.1.12.A.CS1	Understand and use technology systems.
TECH.8.1.12.E	Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.

Enduring Understandings

1. Musical Improvisation is an oral tradition owing much of its gestural heritage to jazz and blues traditions.

2. Scales and Rudiments are the vocabulary used in crafting a solo.

3. Creativity does not exist in a vacuum; great soloists emerge from great transcriptions.

Essential Questions

1. What is a key and what does it mean to play 'in key'?
2. What are scales and why is fluency in their execution a prerequisite to improvisation?
3. How do musicians make both creative and logical decisions when creating and performing a solo?

Knowledge and Skills

Guitar students will be able to:

- Trace the history of western improvisation as an oral tradition inextricably linked to the development of Blues, Jazz and Gospel musics.

- Explore transcriptions of famous and celebrated solos.

- Define and implement the concepts of key, scale and note selection in crafting their own solos.

Terminology:

- Gospel

- Blues

- 12-bar Blues
- Jazz
- Improvisation
- Extemporization
- Scales
- Modes
- Dorian
- Ionian
- Aeolian
- Tonic
- Dominant
- Pentatonic Scale
- Blues Scale
- Transcription
- Contrafact
- Chord Progression
- Accidentals

Transfer Goals

1. Students will be able to decode and perform Pentatonic and Blues scales in a variety of keys and positions.
2. Students will be able utilize these scales in the composition of simple diatonic solos over blues progressions.

Assessments

Performance Art Assessment Map

Modifications

Modifications