

SAMA MONTHLY

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Instructor Corner

Playing In The Groove



Every style of music has a groove or feel. Our job as musicians is to recreate it when we play. If you are playing a rock song there are certain elements such as rhythms or certain instrumental techniques that are used in that style that may not be appropriate in other styles of music.

The only way to truly learn how to play a certain style of music is to listen to it. If a student is interested in singing jazz they need to listen to different jazz vocalists. The internet, particularly YouTube, has made it easy to find recordings of songs or artists.

Playing or singing along with a recording really helps develop a sense of style for a particular genre of music. One of my favorite bands growing up

was Iron Maiden. After I learned a song, I would play along with the CD. This would help me play with the right feel for the song. I did this with many of my favorite recordings. Stevie Ray Vaughan was a big influence on me at that time. I would play along with his recordings and just solo over them. This gave me a good sense of how blues players phrased as opposed to rock or metal players. If I am learning a classical piece I will listen to several recordings to hear how different players interpret it. Aside from practicing, listening is the most important thing you can do to become a better musician.

Randy Naranjo
SAMA Guitar Instructor

Student of the Month

Sierra F.

Sierra has been a student of SAMA since January of 2014 and has been studying under the direction of SAMA guitar instructor Tom Sprayberry. Tom says, "Sierra is always prepared for her lessons. Counting and rhythm comes natural to her which will aid her in her future growth as a musician." Great job, Sierra!



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