

Educational Outreach Workshops

Here is a description of the educational outreach programs Vin Downes offers to enrich the communities in which he performs.

Explorations in Alternate Guitar Tunings

Alternate tunings are a fantastic way to open up your guitar playing to a world of new possibilities. Vin discusses and demonstrates how these tunings can be used to expand the tonal voice of the guitar.

Students will learn examples of folk, Celtic, blues, rock and contemporary fingerstyle music that use various alternate tunings. Guitarists will learn the skills needed to arrange and compose music in these tunings.

Tunings covered include:

Drop D
Open D and G/C
DADGAD
DADEAD
DADEAC

Topics covered:

- Choosing the right tuning when arranging/composing
- Finding chord shapes
- Playing harp-like cross string melodic lines
- Arranging a melody using alternate tunings

Classical Technique for Steel String Guitar

Classical guitar technique is one of the most challenging, yet rewarding studies for the guitar. It is also quite versatile, and can be utilized to play various styles of music.

Vin will teach students basic classical technique studies for both left and right hands using exercises and short musical studies from different musical time periods including Renaissance, Baroque, Classical and Romantic.

Topics covered:

- Left/Right hand placement
- Free stroke – rest stroke
- Right hand arpeggio patterns
- Right hand scale patterns
- Tone, phrasing, and dynamics
- Slurs and ornamentation

* Topics covered will be catered to audience level of understanding.