

GuitarSlinger

A Newsletter from John Hanberry

November 2003

Thank You

I am truly blessed to be able to make a living with guitar in hand. For this I am thankful beyond words. Life as I know it would not be possible without my students and their families. I appreciate you so much and want to take this opportunity to say thank you! Whatever holidays your family celebrates, I hope they are filled with warmth and happiness in great measure.

Thanks again for making my dream possible.

Legal Downloads—99¢

Since my rant last time about illegal downloads I am pleased that many students have been curious about where they might find music to download legally. I am convinced that this is how most music will be distributed in the future. We may as well get used to it.

Since the technology is relatively new, the marketplace is very fluid at this point. There are a couple of different approaches being taken. The most straightforward, in my view, is where you select the songs you want, pay with a credit card (usually .99/tune) and download them. Three of this type that I have found are:

www.liquid.com

Windows only. No proprietary software.
Gift Certificates

www.iTunes.com

Mac & Windows. Download software.
Gift Certificates, Allowance Account.

www.napster.com

Coming on line in December.
Windows only. Download software.

This is by no means a comprehensive list. As I said, the situation is changing rapidly. New sites will appear and old ones will change or disappear. Such is life in the digital age.

Holiday Gift Ideas

The holiday season presents a great opportunity to enhance your child's (or your own) musical experience with inexpensive but useful accessories.

First make sure they have the necessities like a **tuner**, **metronome** and **music stand**.

A **guitar stand** or a new **cord** is always useful. Stocking up on expendables like **picks** and **strings** is good too. Depending on their wants and needs a **slide** or **capo** might be appreciated.

Since we are what we eat, **tickets** to a concert could be a lot of fun although it's a bit more spendy than most of these things. Don't forget the earplugs.

Finally comes the old standby, **CD's**. Why not give them something a little different than their usual fare. Let them taste some blues or jazz. Classical, country, world beat or Balinese gamelan music. It's all good. Of course, as a last resort, a record store or a legal download site **gift certificate** is quick and easy.

I have put more specific recommendations in the online version of this newsletter (see below). As always, call or e-mail me if you have questions.

Happy Holidays!

www.GuitarSlinger.com

An enhanced version of this newsletter is available online. Come on over to www.GuitarSlinger.com and you can check schedules, look up old articles, see pictures from my past, links to the future and who knows what else.

Calendar

Just the usual stuff here but hang it on the 'fridge anyway.
No lessons the week of Thanksgiving.
No lessons between Christmas and the Rose Bowl.

I know that scheduling gets crazy this time of the year but don't forget the **cancellation policy**:
Cancel 48 hrs in advance, no charge. 24-48 hrs 1/2 charge.
Less than 24 hrs full charge. **No exceptions.**

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