

GuitarSlinger

A Newsletter from John Hanberry

December 2006

Calendar

We're into the trickiest part of the year, scheduling wise. Everyone has different holidays, vacations and family visits. The best we can all do is stay sharp and keep the information flowing. I'm guessing some of you will be away the week of Dec. 18. Please let me know so I can reschedule those who remain in a timely fashion.

I know that some will be away the week of President's day (Midwinter break). Same idea; let me know so I can schedule those left behind in a way that works for all.

Don't forget to copy this info to your date book, PDA, hang it on the fridge or whatever you do to keep track. This is your **official notification**, subject to change of course, of when I'll be teaching and when I'll be gone.

December

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| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 31 | X | X | X | X | X | 30 |

January

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | X | X | X | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

February

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | |

NOTICE: There will be **no lessons** December 25 through January 3. Lessons will resume Thursday January 4, 2007.

There will be **no lessons** President's Day, February 19.

Cancellation Policy:

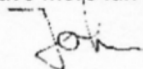
Cancel 48 hrs in advance, no charge. 24-48 hrs 1/2 charge. Less than 24 hrs full charge. **No exceptions** Contact by my phone (message ok), email or website only.

Winter Solstice Gifts

Time once again for the annual list of musical gifts to give at your Solstice Holiday of choice. Since not much has changed, I refer you to a list of **guitar accessories** at www.GuitarSlinger.com/accessories.shtml and a list of **rock videos** at www.guitarslinger.com/gs_nl_0512.shtml. In addition remember **CD's**, **iTunes credits**, **books** about musicians and **concert tickets** (with **earplugs** attached).

During the first lesson of the New Year I will ask students what musical gifts they received. I do not want to hear "nothing". "Nothing" is unacceptable. Any little gift will feed your child's musical interest. Kids need to hear music and read about it and experience it live. Sing holiday songs. Talk about concerts you attended. Make it a living, breathing part of life. And you know what—you'll have more fun too!

Happy Solstice to all.



I Told You So!

In the June '06 *GuitarSlinger* I wrote about the importance of free time in childhood. Apparently I'm not the only one thinking in that direction.

I quote from the announcement: "A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) says free and unstructured play is healthy and - in fact - essential for helping children reach important social, emotional, and cognitive developmental milestones as well as helping them manage stress and become resilient." The article goes on to say "Whereas play protects children's emotional development, **a loss of free time in combination with a hurried lifestyle can be a source of stress, anxiety and may even contribute to depression for many children**". [emphasis mine]

The announcement is online at <http://www.aap.org/pressroom/play-public.htm>. The full report is at <http://www.aap.org/pressroom/playFINAL.pdf>.

Creativity is, by its very nature, an unstructured endeavor. Bringing order out of randomness is the essence of creativity. Allowing your child unstructured time may feel risky but creativity always involves risk. My experience is that the reward is well worth it. Life without risk is not possible. If it were, it would simply be boring and pointless.

Allow me to propose a New Year's resolution to make sure that in 2007 all children have adequate free time to do with as they wish. I believe the world will be a better place for it. GS