

music cth inks

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'Use Your Buzz To Play The Guitar'

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For example: When is a good time to play a gig might be a question to ask a music teacher. But that can be split into 'when is a good time for my band to start playing it's first live show', or 'when in the day / night is a good time to start a show, or when in the week should I play shows, or when in the year should I tour'.

That will start to broaden your scope and you can investigate things like starting times, venue statistics and touring more.

There is an old thing most of us learned at school that although cheesy actually works. It took me until my mid twenties to actually figure this out properly:

Where, What, When, Why, Who and How.

If you can't think of questions to ask yourself or your teacher, start with imagining where you want to be with your playing or career and then use the above words as starting points.

For example you might want to play at school but don't know where to start. You could ask a 'When' question such as 'when could I play?' This can lead you to thinking about what month of the year to play, or when you could play at a specific event on the school calendar.

When a professional band goes on tour they don't just randomly head off... that's called a road trip (which is fun too). Generally they plan first by asking questions such as where (cities) will they play, what venues, when in the year, why they are touring (is it to support an album etc), Who with (support bands) and How (logistics/tour budget etc)

You can think along similar lines no matter where you are in your career. If you're a 6 year old girl in her first guitar lessons, a 27 year old learning by ear, or a 60 year old professional musician.

Ask questions and pay attention to the answers.

Sometimes if you are quiet you can even find them without going very far.



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WOULD? QUESTIONS... AND HOW TO ASK BETTER ONES

How do you learn something in an instant, that has taken someone else 25 years to learn? Well it starts by asking the right question.

Ask a lot of questions. The "dumb" ones are usually the best ones to begin with. As a guitar teacher there is one constant noticeable difference between students who are passionate and student's who are not. The passionate ones ask questions. Ponder this: What is 'thinking'? For the most part, thinking is asking and answering questions. Even quick observations start with a split second question: Do I like this... yes/no!

You can learn a lot about how to play well by listening to a good teacher. You can learn even more by listening and asking. There are certain ways questions can be asked to see more constructive results too.

Your brain is like a super-computer, if you ask it a question it will come up with an answer, so it pays not to ask it why you are crap at playing! Instead of asking 'Why am I crap at playing', ask 'What do I need to do to improve my playing'. Rather than asking why your solos sound bad, instead ask how you could get them sounding better, and then act on the answer. Questions can be split into sub-questions (much like music can be split into sub-genres but in a slightly more effective way).

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