Freedom High School Guitar Program

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http://www.fhsguitar.net

"Love of music…Art in performance"

Dear Present and Future Freedom High School Guitar Students, March 27, 2020

We have enjoyed another highly successful year, having presented many musical performances at Freedom High School. We enjoyed working and performing again with Bobby Koelble (Rollins College & University of Central Florida) and Dr. Ulisses Rocha (University de Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil).

As we move forward amid the COVID-19 outbreak, OCPS has suspended school to distance learning and that schools are closed until at least April 15, 2020, if not beyond. That said, ***the events below are postponed until further notice***, with the hope that concerts will be rescheduled, when we return.

- **Class of 2024 Freshman Orientation**
- **FHS Guitar Spring Concert**
- **FHS Guitar Spring Recital**

Attached is the Final Playing Exam which also serves as the audition material for the 2020-2021 Freedom High School Guitar Ensembles. **The sole purpose of the audition is to determine proper placement in an appropriate ensemble given the student's current reading and technical ability.** The dates of audition are as follows, pending either through digital means from home or as school if we return:

- All auditions will be held between **May 18th and May 22nd** and may be submitted digitally.
- If a current student is not enrolled in a guitar class, they may work on the material and audition.

To bring more opportunities to our talented music students, the Guitar Ensembles are audition based, with a strong emphasis on note reading, musical interpretation and artistry through performance. The ***goals*** and ***expectations*** of all FHS Guitar Ensembles are to:

- develop music reading and sight-reading skills while incorporating different styles and methods of guitar performance
- maintain a positive academic GPA in all classes
- create positive individual and ensemble performance experiences
- apply music theory as related to melodic, chordal and arpeggio performance techniques
- possess and maintain a high sense of intrinsic motivation and strong personal self-discipline
- possess a willingness to further personal and ensemble musicianship/artistry
- demonstrate commitment in showcasing our personal and ensemble growth through required performances during the school year

There will be many performance opportunities both in and out of school for all ensembles next year. It is required that students will be available for all rehearsals and performances, both during and outside school hours. A schedule of rehearsals and performances for the 2020-2021 school year will be published at the beginning of school in August. This packet contains music centered on the different levels of guitar ensembles at Freedom High School.

Our present ensembles include two **Advanced Guitar Ensembles - "Tasto"**, **"Ponticello"** and the **Guitar Orchestra (GO)**. For students interested in majoring in college with Guitar Performance or becoming a Guitar Teacher, we also have a private study course **Guitar Conservatory** in conjunction with being a member in one of our ensembles.

All students will be required to prepare and perform both scales on page 3 in addition to one of the three selected solos/studies. Placement in an ensemble is based scores for that ensemble. Students need to place importance on individual preparation and performance of selected music. The three given selections are based on requirements for the following levels of ensembles and include:

- **"Ponticello" - Level 1/2** = Common with a player of up to 1 to 2 years of experience and at this level, the student will learn and master:
  - note identification (natural, sharp, flats) and basic chord shapes in 1st position
  - performing dynamically
  - performing the selection at the correct tempo
  - ability to count rhythms of note/rest combinations of whole, half, quarter and eighths
  - perform in major key signatures including C, G, D and their relative minor keys
  - perform slurs including hammer-on and pull-off

For this level, students may prepare *all* of *Souvenir d'automne* by Simone Iannarelli between the listed tempi.

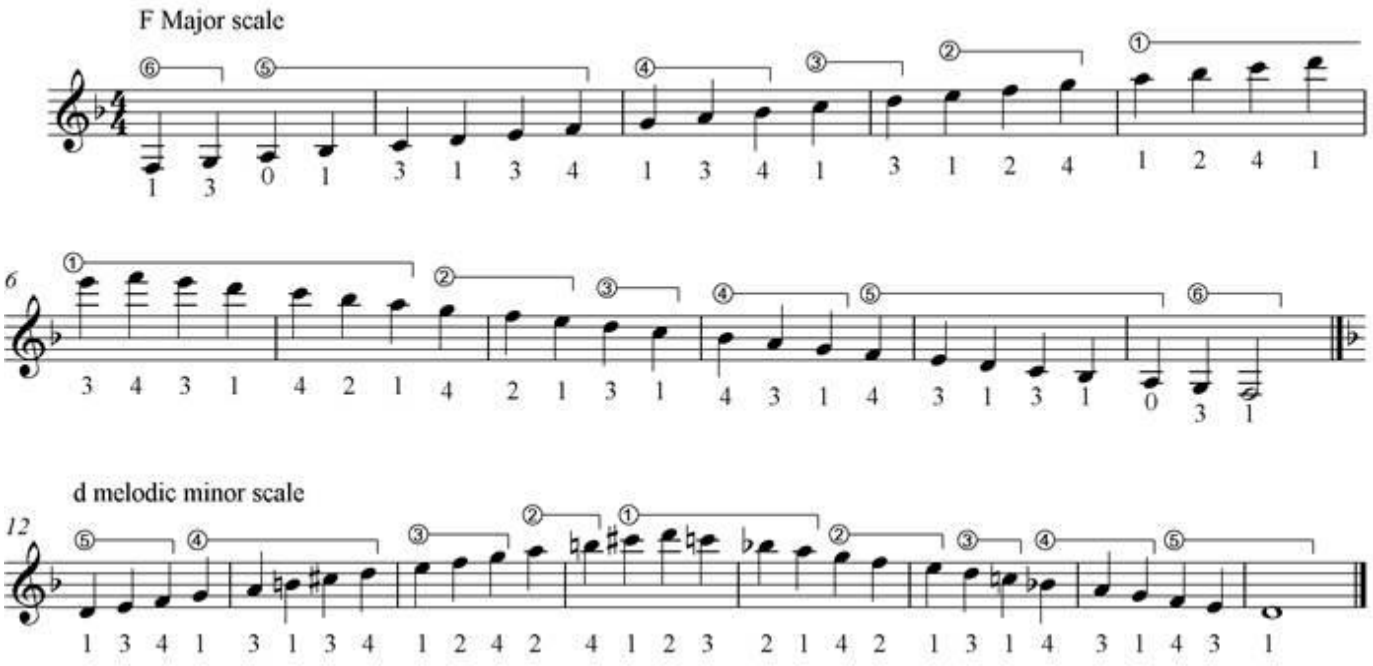
- **"Tasto" Level 2/3** = Common for a player between 2 or more years of experience and at this level, the student has mastered Level 1/2 items above and will learn and master:
  - note identification (natural, sharp, flats) up to 5th position
  - working knowledge of barre chords and ability to manipulate barre chord shapes
  - more unusual note groupings (dyads & triads in 1st through 5th position)
  - performing the selection at the correct tempi
  - play effects including harmonics, golpe, tasto, and ponticello
  - ability to count rhythms of note/rest combinations of quarter dotted notes, eighth triplets and some 16th notes
  - can perform in different major key signatures including G, D, A and F and their relative minor keys

For this level, students may prepare *all* of *Prelude in C Major* by G.F Handel/arr. by Norbert Kraft between the listed tempi.

- **Guitar Orchestra - Level 4/5** = Common for a player between 2 or more years of experience and at this level, the student has <u>mastered Levels 1 through 3</u> items above and will learn and master:
    - fluency with all notes on the fret board (natural, sharp, flats)
    - ability to identify, manipulate and perform non-common chord voicings
    - fluency in counting rhythms of unusual note/rest combinations
    - performing the selection at the correct tempi
    - ability to perform music in various time signatures including 3/8, 6/8, 12/8, 2/2
    - can perform scales in three octaves
    - can perform in advanced major key signatures including B, E, Bb, Eb, and Ab and their relative minor keys

For this level, students may prepare *all* of <u>*Nocturne 1*</u> by Robert Benedict between the listed tempi, without the repeat.

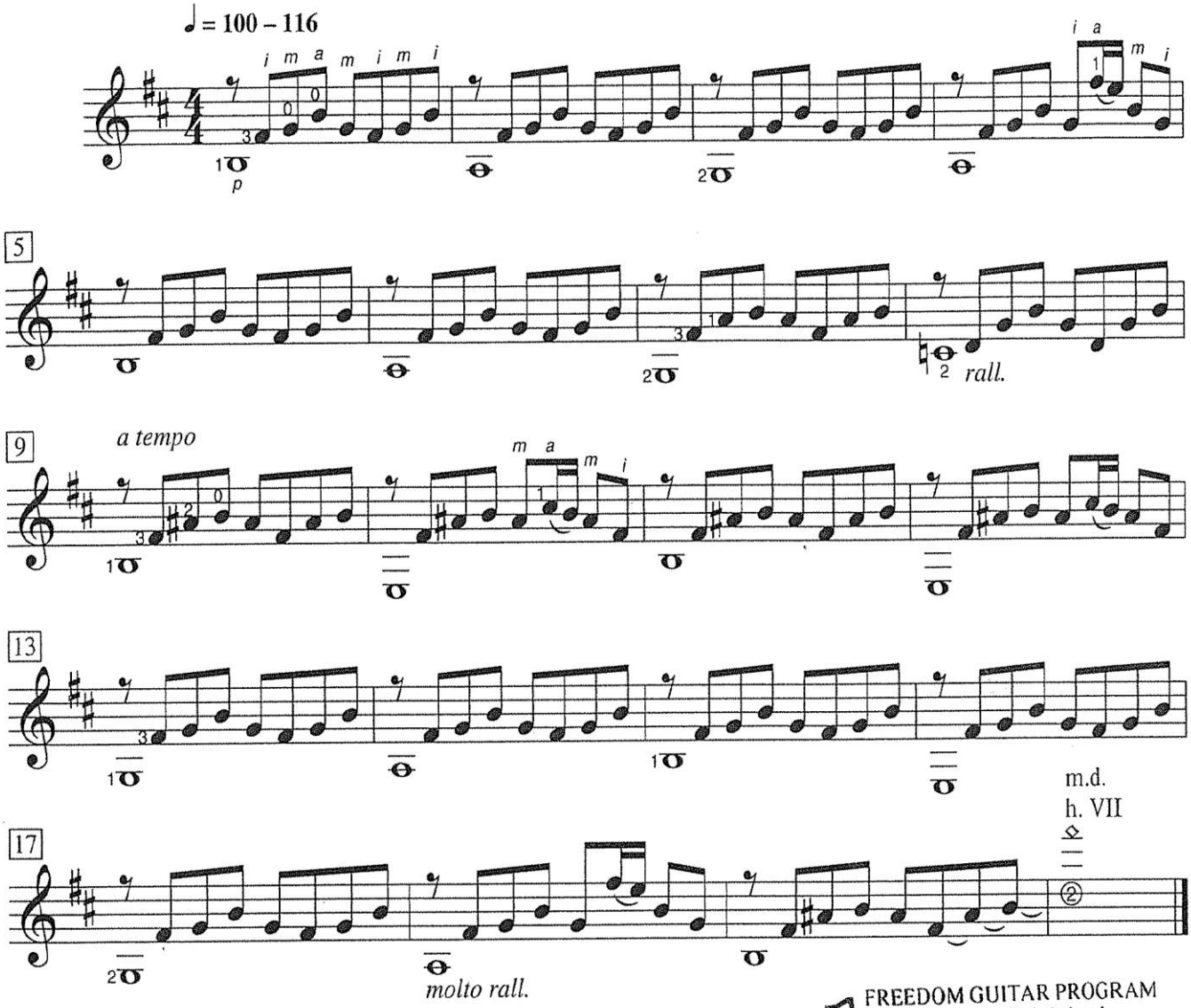
Play the two scales **<u>(F major w/ all three octaves and d melodic minor in two octaves)</u>** as listed below using proper fingerings, finger shifts, string combinations at a tempo of a quarter note = 110 BPM as notated. This will demonstrate knowledge of note names on the fret board and the ability to read/play in multiple positions. Scale fingering combinations to be used for both scales below are either im or mi. <u>Both scales need not be memorized and you may pause briefly between both scales.</u>



Study no. 15

Souvenir d'automne

Simone Iannarelli
(b. 1970)



Source: *La guitare dans tous ses états*, vol. 2

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FREEDOM GUITAR PROGRAM
Freedom High School
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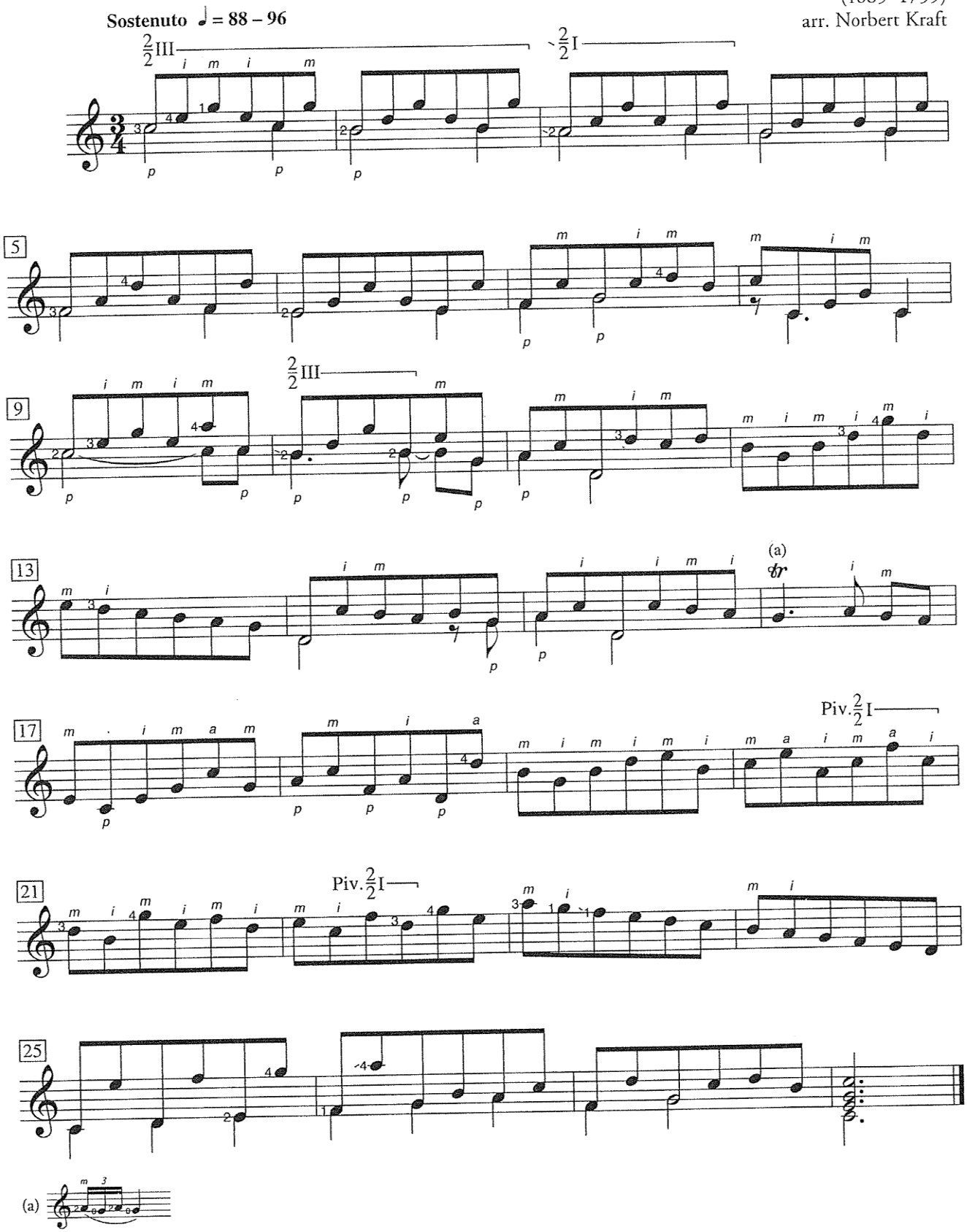
Prelude in C Major

George Frideric Handel
(1685–1759)
arr. Norbert Kraft



Study no. 13 Orlando. FL 32837

Nocturne 1

Robert Benedict
(b. 1947)

① = D

Misterioso ♩ = 63 – 72

mf *mp*

3

mf *mp sub.* *p*

5

7

9

♪ = ♪ *a tempo*

rit.

12

6/6 II

Items to be scored for the audition will include:

- Perform the music and scales using correct notes and rhythms
- Proper use of fingerings within the selected items (no picks are to be used!)
- Proper body/hand positioning in classical guitar style (we use classical guitars)
- Steady rhythmic flow with respect to correct tempi listings
- Tone quality from left hand fretting while using correct fingerings
- Tone quality from right hand *p-i-m-a* technique utilizing correct fingering strokes
- Musicality and Dynamic interpretation as appropriate to the musical selection

I will contact Mr. Gama (Freedom M.S.) along with Ms. Sell (Hunter's Creek M.S.) and communicate with students to work and help with individual preparation into the FHS Guitar Program. I invite you to view the FHS Guitar Program Website http://www.fhsguitar.net to learn more about what we do and to see and hear our ensembles past performances. In a very short time we have grown to become one of the best high school guitar programs in the nation, due in part to incredible parent support and the diligent, hard work of our dedicated students. I am looking forward to working and teaching all those in the FHS Guitar Program next year!

If there are any questions regarding the Freedom High School Guitar Ensembles for next year please contact me at Christopher.Perez@ocps.net.

Musically yours,

Mr. Perez

Christopher Perez
Director of Guitar Studies
Freedom High School

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αρτ ιν περφορμανχε