

Keenan Lazich
208 George St.
Hamilton, ON
L8P 1G1

June 18, 2021

To whom it may concern,

As a student who began studying with Mr. Mark Daum over 10 years ago it is a privilege to be able to provide my unreserved recommendation and vouch for his abilities as an instructor for guitar and a mentor who continues to motivate me today.

I first began studying with Mark at a point where my musical interests involved more advanced concepts of theory, composition, and technique. Simply put: I had outgrown previous instructors and needed someone new to help guide my next stage of musical studies.

Because of Mark's breadth of knowledge and his experience as a performer, he is quick to relate to the needs and experiences of his students. Mark has an uncanny ability to develop a musician's strengths all while improving on their weaknesses. He quickly identified that while my technique had developed to an advanced stage, my knowledge of theory and composition required significant improvement. Our lessons were structured in his own unique way, allowing my technique to continue to develop but forcing me to confront my weakness and overcome deficiencies in my understanding of music theory at a much more accelerated rate. Because he spent time *listening* to my motivations for pursuing music, lessons were challenging, perplexing, funny, frustrating, but always rewarding. Mark was able to synthesize advancing my theoretical knowledge while applying it in a technical context that motivated me intensely.

Mark's teaching style also focuses on achieving *longevity* with playing. That is, teaching the soft skills necessary as a player to avoid injury and prevent burnout, something I have not found in other instructors. It is because of Mark's teachings that I am able to continue developing a high degree of technical ability whilst living with tendonitis of the wrist.

Throughout my 15 years of playing guitar I have experienced instructors of all competency levels. I can say with absolute certainty that Mark Daum possesses the knowledge, experience, and rare gift of teaching that can improve the playing of beginners and advanced players alike along with cultivating healthy long-term playing habits and the discipline to go as far as they desire.

Thank you,

Keenan Lazich