



## **Guitar Comps and Evaluation Program**

### **What is the Metro Music Makers Guitar Comps and Evaluation Program?**

- This program is a level-appropriate assessment of a student's musical abilities on the guitar, bass, and ukulele.
- Students are gauged by an instrument-specific panel of professional musicians knowledgeable and experienced with the skills and techniques being examined.
- Multiple areas of musicality are evaluated: basic knowledge (scales), ability (technique), and creativity (improvisation and musicality).
- Students showcase their skill level by performing all of the following:
  - A required piece in which a pre-recorded accompaniment track is provided (improvisational solo)
  - A choice piece, or a song of the student's choice (prepared solo)
  - And musical scales in corresponding keys
- Auditions are submitted via pre-recorded video.

### **Why Participate in Guitar Comps and Evaluation Program? What are the Benefits?**

- See growth and chart improvement each year and over the course of the student's career as they continue to participate in the program.
- Students feel a sense of accomplishment.
- Knowledge of successes and areas of improvement are highlighted by the judges allowing students to focus and grow in specific areas of their playing based on this feedback.
- Students are encouraged to showcase ability to others (and themselves): family, friends, peers, teachers, etc.
- Performance is an important part of overall musicianship.
- Consistent progress is a worthy achievement to spotlight on college applications, resumes, or as an extracurricular activity.
- Students learn to set goals, set out to achieve them, and experience the validation and ownership that goes along with their completion.
- Musicians face specific challenges that go along with performing for an audience. Overcoming these obstacles builds strength and resilience and helps to shape character.
- Students are awarded for their individualized progress and achievement.
  - A digital certificate is awarded to each participant.
  - For an additional fee, a hard copy for the certificate and award button (for the student's guitar strap) will be mailed to the student.

### **How are Guitar Comps Assessed?**

- The comps are divided up into three units: required piece (playing along with an included backing track), choice piece (student chooses to play a section of an existing song), and scales (tests the student's knowledge of musical scales).
- Specifically, students will be assessed on the following criteria: consistent rhythm, time feel, pitch, note selection, tone quality, musicality/expressiveness.
- Students will be evaluated quantitatively using a 1-10 Likert scale and qualitatively from written/verbal comments from professional musicians.

### **Who is eligible to participate?**

- Any student! The levels of assessment are not necessarily based on age, but rather skill level.