

**Preliminary Data Report
First Survey
Program Evaluation of the GAMA Guitar Workshops**

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In fall 2007, participants in GAMA guitar workshops responded to an anonymous online survey. There were 188 responses, for a 36% response rate, which is an acceptable representation of the overall sample of participating guitar teachers.

Results of the survey are very positive, and indicate broad interest in the GAMA workshops. The teachers believe the program is effective and valuable and would recommend it to other teachers. Teachers reported that they learned guitar and instructional skills that they can apply in their schools.

Our next survey (spring 2008) will assess the success of teachers in implementing and sustaining guitar classes, as well as the potential benefits for students.

Most survey respondents attended a GAMA workshop in 2007. About one-third attended a workshop in 2006 and less than one-fourth attended a workshop in 2005.

	2005	2006	2007
Attended GAMA workshop	21.3%	33.0%	52.7%

Over half of the survey respondents had played guitar for at least three years. Over one-third had played guitar for at least six years. About one-fourth had little or no prior experience playing guitar.

Years of Experience Playing Guitar	Percent
Just Started	25.5%
1 to 2 years	21.8%
3 to 5 years	16.5%
6 to 10 years	6.4%
over 10 years	29.8%

Survey respondents had less experience in teaching guitar. About one-third of the music teachers had little or no guitar teaching experience. Over half of the teachers had less than 2 years of experience teaching guitar.

Years of Experience Teaching Guitar	Percent
Just Started	32.8%
1 to 2 years	27.4%
3 to 5 years	21.0%
6 to 10 years	8.6%
over 10 years	10.2%

Most survey respondents were middle school music teachers. About 40% are teaching in an elementary school and about one-third are teaching in high school.

Currently a music teacher in:	Percent
Elementary School	39.9%
Middle School	55.9%
High school	34.6%

A large majority of the music teachers are teaching guitar during the current school year, and most plan to teach guitar next year.

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Are you teaching guitar this year?	80.3%	19.7%	
Will you be teaching a guitar class next year?	75.5%	2.2%	22.3%

About 60% of the music teachers had over 30 students enrolled in guitar classes. About one-third of the teachers had over 60 guitar students, and about 30% had over 60 students. Over one-fifth of the teachers had at least 90 students.

Guitar Students Enrolled	Percent
1 to 10	15.2%
11 to 20	8.8%
21 to 30	17.0%
31 to 40	11.1%
41 to 50	6.4%
51 to 60	7.6%
61 to 70	2.3%
71 to 80	7.6%
81 to 90	1.8%
91 to 100	4.1%
Over 100	18.1%

The music teachers overwhelmingly reported that the GAMA workshop met their expectations.

	Yes	No
Did the workshop meet your expectations?	96.8%	3.2%

Music teachers responded very positively to rating scale items about the GAMA workshops. 84% of the teachers “strongly agreed” that the workshops were well organized. 95% of the teachers “strongly agreed” that the workshop instructors were knowledgeable about their subject and 82% “strongly agreed” that the instructors were

effective in communicating workshop content. All respondents reported that they would recommend the workshops to other teachers.

GAMA Guitar Workshops	SA	A	N	D	SD
The guitar workshops were well organized.	84%	14%	1%	0%	1%
The workshop teachers were knowledgeable about guitars and guitar teaching.	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%
The workshop teachers were effective in communicating the workshop content.	82%	17%	0%	1%	0%
Adequate time was provided for discussion and questions.	63%	31%	2%	3%	1%
I would recommend the workshops to other teachers.	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%

SA = strongly agree A = agree N = not sure D = disagree SD = strongly disagree

- 98% of teachers reported that the guitar workshops were well organized (when combining “strongly agree” and “agree” ratings).
- 100% of teachers reported that workshop instructors were knowledgeable about guitars and guitar teaching.
- 99% of teachers reported that workshop instructors were effective in communicating workshop content.
- 94% of teachers reported that adequate time was provided for discussion and questions.
- 100% of teachers reported that they would recommend the workshops to other teachers.

Music teachers also responded very positively to questions about their own professional development and ability to apply what they learned in their classrooms. 90% of the teachers “strongly agreed” that the workshop materials will be very helpful in their teaching. Over three-fourths of the teachers “strongly agreed” that they gained new guitar playing and instructional skills. Almost all of the teachers believed that the workshop content was relevant to their specific teaching situations.

Professional Development	SA	A	N	D	SD
The workshop content was relevant to my teaching situation.	65%	31%	2%	1%	1%
The workshop materials (such as guitar, books and accessories) will be very helpful in my teaching.	90%	8%	1%	0%	1%
I expect to be able to use the materials and knowledge from the workshop in my teaching.	80%	18%	1%	0%	1%
I gained new skills in guitar playing through the workshop.	76%	20%	1%	2%	1%
I gained a better understanding of how to teach guitar through the workshop.	84%	15%	0%	0%	1%
I learned specific instructional skills that I can apply when I’m teaching.	79%	20%	0%	0%	1%

SA = strongly agree A = agree N = not sure D = disagree SD = strongly disagree

- 96% of teachers reported that the workshop content was relevant to their teaching situation (when combining “strongly agree” and “agree” ratings).
- 98% of teachers reported that workshop materials will be very helpful in their teaching.
- 98% of teachers reported that they will be able to use materials and knowledge from the workshops in their teaching.

- 96% of teachers reported that they gained new guitar playing skills.
- 99% of teachers reported that they gained a better understanding of how to teach guitar.
- 99% of teachers reported that they learned instructional skills they can apply in their teaching.

Over half of the music teachers “strongly agreed” that their school administrators supported guitar classes.

School Support	SA	A	N	D	SD
My school administration is supportive of my effort to bring guitar classes to my school.	53%	34%	9%	3%	1%

SA = strongly agree A = agree N = not sure D = disagree SD = strongly disagree

- 87% of teachers reported that their school administration supports their efforts to bring guitar lessons to their school (when combining “strongly agree” and “agree” ratings).

Music teachers found that guitar classes helped them engage more students in music instruction.

Student Participation	SA	A	N	D	SD
My students are receptive to the idea of learning to play guitar.	67%	28%	5%	0%	0%
Through guitar classes, I am able to reach students who otherwise might not participate in traditional music classes (like band or chorus).	63%	27%	8%	2%	0%

SA = strongly agree A = agree N = not sure D = disagree SD = strongly disagree

- 95% of teachers reported that their students were receptive to playing guitar (when combining “strongly agree” and “agree” ratings).
- 90% of teachers reported that through guitar they were able to reach students who otherwise would not participate in music classes.