

My Guitar Story - Patrick McCarroll



Guitar League member since: 2022

When did you start playing guitar?:

Since 1980. I bought my first acoustic guitar for around \$10. It was overpriced. Banged around on that for a year or so using John Denver and Neil Young songbooks as my guides, and then got a used Univox electric with a Bassman tube head running through a speaker cabinet I made loaded with Radio Shack speakers. I was loud and awful. My family were not fans...

What was your motivation to learn the instrument?

Hearing the acoustic guitar on all of the singer-songwriter music back in the 70's really inspired me. Plus Neil Young doing both acoustic and electric was big to me. I wanted to do that, too.

What style(s) do you play?

Rock, Jazz, Folk Rock, Songs with meaning, Songs with good vocals and Harmony. I played Blues Rock back in the 80s-90s and learned harmonica then as well. Played Modern Rock/Grunge in the 90's and learned how to wreck my voice and ears.

Played Bass off and on with various cover bands in the 2000's-2010's. And now happily and forever perform with my wife Gwen as Power of Two playing our music with harmony and meaning together.

What make/model guitar(s) do you play?

Epiphone Masterbilt dread cutaway with LR Baggs Anthem pickup

Washburn HB35 semi-hollow

Fender acoustic dreadnought. It's been there and back again and it shows-
bought it new in 1990.

Fender Jazz Bass

Hohner Marine Band harps.

Guitars come and go. Some you miss and some you don't remember. Me, I
sometimes regret parting with my Alvarez Yairi Koa acoustic, and my Geddy Lee
Jazz Bass.

What kind of strings do you like?

Acoustic: D'Addario Flat Tops half round phosphor bronze

Electric: D'Addario XL Half Round Stainless Steel

Bass: Uhh, the ones that came on it. You mean you should change your bass
strings? :)

Do you play out?

Gwen and I play out all around CNY as Power of Two, and we sometimes add
Gary Weeks on Bass, John Mantle on Drums,,and Jennie Mantle on Vocals, as
Power of Two Plus 3

Do you like to jam with others?

I do. It's the best way to get better quickly, and have fun doing it!

What is your practice routine?

I run scales to loosen up my old fingers, then finger pick though chord
progressions for a while, then bash away. I strive to play new songs with
intention a few times, so I can learn chords and lyrics by heart quickly to be more
free onstage.

What are your current goals? How does GL support them?

To become a better live performer and speaker and learn to sing better
harmonies (Gwen is great at this and I am learning all the time from her). I want
to sing more with ease and push away my longtime habit of just belting out
everything all the time. To just be in the song and play what it needs instead of
trying so hard to be loud. (Damn you Rock and Roll! :)

I am also working on learning Jazz Theory and Harmony. (Damn you Wes
Montgomery! :)

Guitar League is helpful to me to learn about other people's music journey, and
apply some of their wisdom to my own playing.

I also help Guitar League out on occasion providing sound for the meetings. I
strive to help the artists sound clear and true.