



Bristol and Bath's only dedicated Blues school

Free Newsletter

# Become a Blues Master

## How the Masters think

It's a little known fact that great musicians have a fundamentally different way of approaching the guitar. If you are feeling held back in your playing, it's useful to look at how the masters think to find out how to move past your current limitations.

### What is mastery?

'Mastery' is a word that's easy to throw around, but what does it mean?...

...Is it even possible to 'master' the guitar?

Well, it depends on how you define mastery.

We can define mastery as:

**The ability to enter a chosen musical situation with total competence**

- and -

**The ability to express oneself authentically and effortlessly**

This is definitely an achievable goal.

Knowing this, the master musicians goes after mastery directly. In doing so,

*continued overleaf*



NightTrain courses have started in Bristol – we are now in our second term of Blues evening classes. Courses are held on the Gloucester Road, Bristol. We will be starting in Bath in March.



*"Highly structured with great tuition. It is a course I would highly recommend. It doesn't matter your level you just slot straight in." - Simon*

*"I would definitely recommend these courses to help improve your blues and general guitar technique." - Alex*

## Blues Jam Night – Want to come along?

Our first blues jam night will be happening in March. If you would like to come along to play or watch, or get further information please call on 07905 277847

## Competition – Win a free place on one of our courses, worth £100

To enter: Submit a short piece about your favourite guitarist. You can submit an article, or a video. The winning response will be published on our website. Send your entry to [info@nightrainguitar.co.uk](mailto:info@nightrainguitar.co.uk)

## What we do

We run Blues guitar evening classes for guitarists of all ages who want to take their creativity, expression and competence to a new level. End frustration, confusion and lack of direction – take a look at our courses at [www.nightrainguitar.co.uk](http://www.nightrainguitar.co.uk)



## Blues is the basis of rock soloing



If you want to play great rock solos then learning the blues is a great place to start.

Most of the greatest rock guitarists of all time learned blues first, and are actually using the same blues chops in a rock context.

From learning the minor pentatonic and the language of blues, you are also only two notes away from any minor modal pattern.

From here, many styles become accessible very easily and simply.

The blues gives you a foundation in improvisation and expression which you can go on to apply in any context.

## The right note at the right time – how to start

Many guitarists are confused about how to hit the 'right notes' when they are playing a solo.

The secret is to fit with the backing chords.

One thing you can learn to do right now is to hit 'target notes'.

A target note is a note that fits very well with the chord that is being played. The simplest way to do this is to hit the root note of the chord in your solo.

Try this:

- 1) Learn where the 1, 4 and 5 are in your minor pentatonic scale. These are your targets.
- 2) Learn the 12 bar blues sequence like the back of your hand. **You can only solo as well as you know the sequence.**
- 3) Create phrases that end on the target that corresponds to the current chord. e.g. During chord 1, end your phrase on the 1 of the scale.

This exercise is taught in more detail in "Lead Phrasing".

## How the masters think (cont.)

they must ask themselves the question:

**What skills do I need to develop to master my instrument?**

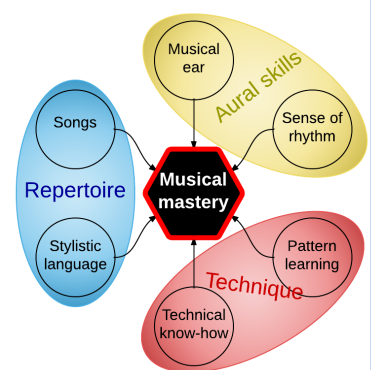
There are 6 skills which every musician needs to work on. They are shown in the picture to the right. They can be put into three separate categories.

**Aural Skills    Repertoire    Technique**

Most musicians have skills mainly in one area. A master needs to have a complete set of skills.

**What kind of musician are you?**

**To get access to a tool you can use to assess your current strengths and weaknesses, visit our website at [www.nighttrainguitar.co.uk/free-access.html](http://www.nighttrainguitar.co.uk/free-access.html)**



## Courses starting soon

### Blues Basics

**Don't know any blues just yet but want to get started? Start out with Blues Basics.**

Next courses start:  
23<sup>rd</sup> February, Gloucester Rd, Bristol.  
2<sup>nd</sup> March, Southville, Bristol.  
9<sup>th</sup> March, Bath City Centre.

2 Saturday daytime sessions. Suitable for beginners to the Blues.

### Lead Phrasing

**How to improvise. Develops musical perception and allows greater self-expression.**

Next courses start:  
21<sup>st</sup> February, Gloucester Rd Bristol  
Thursdays 6.30 – 8pm.

5 weekly meet-ups and access to an online practice website with all resources provided. Intermediate.

### Technical Training

**Focused and musical exercises - dramatically increase your ability within a short time.**

Next courses start:  
21<sup>st</sup> February, Gloucester Rd Bristol  
Thursdays 8.15 – 9.45pm.

5 weekly meet-ups and access to an online practice website with all resources provided. Intermediate.

### All Blues

**Master a selection of real Blues Tunes. A complete understanding of the Blues as it is played.**

Next courses start:  
8<sup>th</sup> April, Gloucester Rd Bristol  
Thursdays 8.15 – 9.45pm.

5 weekly meet-ups and access to an online practice website with all resources provided. Advanced.