

# My Guitar Story

## Bryan Dickenson



**Guitar League member since:** 2015

**When did you start playing guitar?** I started with a \$25 guitar and a \$.25 chord book from Mr. Cs music in Herkimer in 1965 at age 12. My fingers were strengthened and my devotion sapped by mile high action making my early progress slow and painful.

**What was your motivation to learn the instrument?** I was a fan of Glen Campbell and wanted to learn those songs as well as folk songs of the day like “Blowin’ In The Wind” I had done choral singing and wanted to do solo stuff so I needed instrumentation.

**What style(s) do you play?** Strumming with flat pick or fingers as well as fingerstyle. My music is story songs and ballads and light pop and rock, some covers but concentrating mainly on originals.

**What make/model guitar(s) do you play?** I have a 2008 Martin D16 cutaway, 1976 Alvarez Yairi D-74, Taylor GS mini and a Luna 12 string converted to a nine string.

**What kind of strings do you like?** Mostly D’Addario or Martin Retros though I don’t have brand loyalty and am constantly trying others listening for a sound I like.

**Do you play out?** Yes, though infrequently for pay. I have some gigs annually solo or with my partner Kathy Dillon. I just did a luncheon for RSVP of Oswego with Kathy and will be solo on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> at Steeple coffeehouse in Fayetteville, but I mainly play at open mics around the area to showcase my original songs.

**Do you like to jam with others?** I do to some degree. I participate irregularly with a group in town. The social aspect and musical camaraderie is a very pleasant way to spend an evening.

**What is your practice routine?** Anyone who knows me knows I don’t really practice per se. Too much like calisthenics! I play most days, running through my set list songs or learning something new. The best “practice” for me is just constantly playing anything that catches my fancy or figuring out a new song.

**What are your current goals? How does GL support them?** I don’t really have goals at this point. I try to master new things I witness others doing or new ways to vary my styles to keep things fresh. The social aspect of Guitar League is very beneficial as are breakouts, which I either join or lead, as well as the opportunity to occasionally play a preshow for a meeting. I think anyone who wants to improve as a guitarist can get benefit from this group.