

Mary Ellen Doyle
Guitar League Profile



GL - What do you do for a living?

MED - I recently retired from teaching English as a second language to adult immigrants. They were enthusiastic, motivated learners, and I learned so much about different cultures, food, and music. I also teach piano and still have a few students.

GL - When not playing your guitar what else do you do for recreation?

MED - I love to go the YMCA and take classes. I take care of my grandchildren two days a week and enjoy participating in their activities. My husband and I like to explore different places and take long walks.

GL - What got you interested in playing the guitar?

MED - My brother plays guitar, and I love playing with him and my family. My grandson got a little guitar for Christmas, and I started watching Youtube to learn a few chords.

GL - How long have you been playing the guitar?

MED - I started playing in 2022, but I just like to play for fun. My husband bought me a Yamaha guitar, and it has a nice sound.

GL - What music gets you excited and why?

MED - I love all kinds of music – classical, show tunes, songs from the 40's. I try to keep up with the latest pop music so I can use those songs with my piano students. With guitar, I particularly like playing the acoustic songs from the 60's that we play in Guitar League.

GL - Are you playing guitar as much as you would like?

MED - Definitely not, but I hope to find more time in the fall.

GL - When was the last time you listened to a new artist, band or guitar player?

MED - I enjoyed listening to and playing the music of John Prine. I wasn't familiar with his music, but it is beautiful music with meaningful lyrics.

GL - What are you practicing and why?

MED - Mostly I practice the songs that Guitar League sends me. I try to review my favorites from the previous month. I want to improve the quality of my sound, learn more chords, and get smoother at changing chords.

GL - Who are your top three musical influences?

MED - My guitar influences are Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, the Eagles, and Simon and Garfunkel.

GL - What is your greatest guitar playing challenge?

MED - I need to work on playing the chords with a clean sound, switching to different chords, and memorizing the music.

GL - What musical accomplishment are you most proud of?

MED - I am proud of my role as a piano teacher helping my students learn to read music, play well, and have music an important part of their lives. One of my best students is Lisa Brown from Guitar League! I have had some phenomenal students over the years.

GL - How would you describe yourself as a musician in one sentence?

MED - I am interested in playing music with family and friends in a non-competitive, relaxed setting.

GL - Do you keep your guitar playing to yourself or do you play for audiences?

MED - I mostly play by myself, but it's so much better when we all play together at Guitar League.

GL - Do you have any ambitions to form a band or duo?

MED - Probably not, but maybe in the future.

GL - What style do you mostly play and why?

MED - I am playing chords on an acoustic guitar. I hope to be ready to play around the campfire this August.