



## Bronstein Music Profile: Carlos Guadarrama

### **Bronstein Music**

363 Grand Avenue  
South San Francisco  
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This email is the 2nd in our series of profiles about the people here at Bronstein Music. This time we present information about one of our teachers, Carlos Guadarrama.

Regards,  
Don Edwards

### **A Profile of Carlos Guadarrama**

Carlos Guadarrama is a teacher at Bronstein Music School. He teaches guitar, ukulele, mandolin, and electric bass, both privately and in a group setting. He has been teaching here since 2005.

When Carlos was in the 4th grade, he learned to play his first instrument - the mandolin. Growing up in Mexico City, he was able to play in the school mandolin group for a couple of years. He switched to the guitar when he was in the 6th grade and did a lot of learning on his own. He was fortunate enough to be able to watch - and listen to - the music groups that played on the street corners in his neighborhood.



Eventually, Carlos and his brother enrolled in a music school to get a more formal education in the field. Carlos took two years of private instruction in music theory, something that is a very important aspect of his teaching today. He developed his performance skills and started to get professional engagements on the guitar.

The desire to advance his music skills took him to Southern California where he initially attended the Guitar Institute of Technology, a full-time hands-on program taught by the leading professional guitarists in the Los

Angeles area. Subsequently, Carlos attended the Dick Grove School of Music where he studied composition, arranging, and film scoring. He worked with a who's who of the top studio musicians, composers, and arrangers in Hollywood. Dick Grove's 3-year program was the perfect place for Carlos to blend his theoretical knowledge of music with his practical skills.

To give you an idea of the intensity of the Dick Grove program, the students were given an assignment each week to produce a full score and prepare all of the individual parts - every imaginable instrumentation from orchestra to big band to small ensemble and more. At the end of the week, the composition was performed by the people at Dick Grove's school, and the whole process started over again.

Following his time at Dick Grove, Carlos returned to Mexico and played music in recording sessions, musicals, and the like. He joined a travelling group that toured all throughout Mexico and the western US. The allure of the Bay Area, as well as a marriage and birth of his son, brought Carlos to live here and continue his music career. He became very interested in teaching music and took a job at Bill's ABC Music in San Bruno. Not only did he teach, but he repaired instruments - guitars, violins, violas, cellos, etc. He also played music professionally and sharpened his skills in Cumbia, Salsa, and other Latin styles. In 2005, Carlos joined the teaching staff at Bronstein Music.

Carlos has another passion in addition to music. He loves (and collects) books. At one point, his collection was so large that he opened a bookstore. He's no longer in the retail business, but remains an avid collector.

Carlos maintains a busy teaching schedule at Bronstein Music School. He teaches private lessons, semi-private lessons (with 2, 3, or 4 students at the same skill level), and group lessons on guitar and ukulele. He also puts together some fun music groups such as the Rock Ensemble, Contemporary Acoustic Styles ensemble, and has offered a Mariachi Class and Jazz Ensemble.

To schedule private lessons or group classes with Carlos, come into the store or call us at (650) 588-2502.

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