



Bronstein Music profile: Dave Ernst

Bronstein Music

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We continue with our series of profiles of the people who work and teach at Bronstein Music. This time I'm pleased to introduce you to Dave Ernst, a guitar teacher here. Dave's story is remarkable, and I'm sure you will enjoy reading about him.

Don Edwards
Bronstein Music

Profile of Dave Ernst

We've all heard about the connection between music and math. It's always interesting to meet someone who embodies both. Such a person is Dave Ernst, a guitar teacher at Bronstein Music. His interests have taken him around the world. Here are some highlights from that journey.



Dave grew up in Palo Alto. He got an early start with music - piano in the 2nd grade, clarinet in the 3rd grade, guitar in the 7th grade. Of these, it was the guitar that became the most important for Dave. By 9th grade, he was playing in a rock band, and when he was in the 11th grade started playing in a jazz group. At this point, his guitar skills were mostly self-taught.

When Dave was in college, he began to play solo acoustic guitar music, mainly in the Celtic style. This later led to Dave writing a book on the subject (more about that in a moment). Dave attended the University of California, San Diego. He was pre-med for a while, and also studied sociology. Along the way he kept studying math and music, and learned a lot of it on his own. Later, Dave attended the Berklee College of Music (in Boston) where he was a part of the jazz studies program.

Dave moved to Russia and attended Leningrad State University. In addition to studying Russian culture and

language, Dave got to play music with some Russian rock artists. Dave also lived in Thailand, where he taught music at an international school and did some recording session work for Warner Brothers and Sony.

Dave returned to the Bay Area and studied with legendary guitarist, Dave Creamer (who recorded with Miles Davis, among many others), as well as several other local teachers.

In 1998, Dave was appointed director of the music theory program at the Ex'pression College for Digital Arts in Emeryville. Dave wrote the entire curriculum for music theory; the students use Dave's material in place of text books. Dave teaches music theory, Digital Audio Workstation software (with emphasis on Apple's "Logic"), and psychology at Ex'pression.

But, that's just part of the teaching story. In addition to holding a teaching credential in music, Dave has one in math. Dave now teaches a wide variety of math classes at a charter high school in Oakland. (This is where Dave spends his weekdays; he accomplishes the rest of his work at nights and on weekends.)

Earlier, we mentioned that Dave was an author. In 2004, he was teaching at the National Guitar Workshop and he received a request to write a book on fingerstyle playing (Celtic style). He did, and the book is published by Alfred Publishing (naturally, Dave's book is available at Bronstein Music).

Despite being one of the busiest people we've met, Dave is available for guitar lessons on Saturday at Bronstein Music. For more information, see our website (www.bronsteinmusic.com), come into the store and talk to one of our staff members, or give us a call at (650) 588-2502.

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