



## 2026 All-Virginia Guitar Ensemble (AVGE) Audition Information & Materials

### Presenting the Premiere of the All-Virginia Middle School Guitar Ensemble



**Auditions will take place September 12 and 13 2026 at sites across the Commonwealth. Site locations and sign ups will be posted by Labor Day.**

**Eligibility:** In order to participate in All-Virginia Guitar Ensemble, students of qualified directors must be enrolled as an incoming 7 - 8th grade student, be regular participants in the guitar program. If the student attends a school where the guitar program and/or class curriculum is limited to an Intermediate Level or lower (\*defined by the Virginia Department of Education Standards of Learning: HII.12 - 16), the student may be eligible to audition as long as they are registered in another music class at their school. If there is no guitar program at the student's school, the student must be a regular participant in another music class at their school. \*<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2030/637949943128000000>

**AVGE Performance:** The 2026 AVGE will perform for the VMEA Professional Development Conference in Richmond, VA (tentatively scheduled) Nov. 21, 2026 with rehearsals starting on November 20. Should you win the audition to participate in the AVGE, you will be required to pay a fee of approximately \$125. This price may drop as sponsorship increases. Some school districts may give financial assistance for this event. You are encouraged to discuss this ahead of time with your teacher and administrators.

## **Sight Reading**

(See sample sight reading examples included in this packet)

- 10 Points (out of 100)
  - 4 Points Notes
  - 4 Points Rhythm
  - 2 Musicality

## **G Major Scale - 2 Octaves**

(See music included in this packet)

- 15 Points (out of 100)
  - 5 Points for correct notes
  - 5 Points for fluid, steady rhythm
  - 5 Points for tone quality (left and right hand techniques)

## **Solo: *Papillon, Op. 50, no. 13* by Mauro Giuliani**

(Included in this packet)

- 35 Points (out of 100)
  - 10 Points for correct notes and rhythms
  - 10 Points for tone quality from right hand and left hand techniques
  - 10 Points for musicality: dynamics, phrasing, interpretation
  - 5 Points for overall quality of preparation

## **Ensemble Excerpts**

(Included in this packet)

Prepare 4 short excerpts from ***The Bell and Pendulum* by Travis Marcum**. You will be asked to play two of these excerpt at the audition (not free choice).

- 40 Points (out of 100)
  - 10 Points for correct notes and rhythms
  - 10 Points for tone quality from right hand and left hand techniques
  - 10 Points for musicality: dynamics, phrasing, interpretation
  - 10 Points for overall quality of preparation

# 2026 All-Virginia Middle School Guitar Ensemble Conductor

## Dr. Kami Rowan



Dr. Kami Rowan is the Charles A. Dana Professor of Music at Guilford College, where she has taught since 1994 and built a nationally recognized classical guitar program within a liberal arts environment. Her students and ensembles have earned top honors at festivals and have performed throughout the East Coast and internationally. Alumni of the program have gone on to pursue advanced degrees in music as well as careers in teaching, performance, and recording. Since January 2025, Dr. Rowan has also served as Provost at Guilford College.

Dr. Rowan holds the DMA and MM degrees from Shenandoah Conservatory at Shenandoah University and a BM from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where she studied with renowned pedagogue Aaron Shearer. She also earned her North Carolina teaching certification through UNC Greensboro and previously taught in Guilford County Schools, where she helped launch Weaver Academy for Performing & Visual Arts and developed a comprehensive high school guitar curriculum.

A respected leader in guitar education, Dr. Rowan is frequently invited as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for festivals and honor ensembles across the United States. She has conducted and adjudicated numerous middle and high school guitar ensembles in state, regional, and national guitar festivals. Mentoring young guitarists and music educators while advancing the role of guitar ensemble and orchestras is her passion.

Dr. Rowan serves on several nonprofit boards, including the Eastern Music Festival, Piedmont Guitar Society, and the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro. She is the director of the United States Guitar Orchestra, which has performed at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, and on international tours in France, Spain, and Portugal. She also founded the Eastern Music Festival Guitar Program, now expanded into the U.S. Guitar Orchestra Summer Institute.

An active performer, clinician, guest conductor, and recording artist, Dr. Rowan also composes and enjoys travel and time with her family.

# Sight Reading Examples

## Sample 1



Sample 1 consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains a sequence of notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (half). The second staff continues with: C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

## Sample 2



Sample 2 consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The second staff continues with: B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (half).

## Sample 3



Sample 3 consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), E4-F#4 (beamed eighth notes), D4-E4 (beamed eighth notes), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter). The second staff continues with: F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (half).

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## G Major Scale

There are no required fingerings.

Recommendations:

- Alternate right hand fingers



The G Major Scale is shown in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The notation includes the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), E4-F#4 (beamed eighth notes), D4-E4 (beamed eighth notes), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (quarter), B1 (quarter), A1 (quarter), G1 (quarter), F#1 (quarter), E1 (quarter), D1 (quarter), C1 (half).

# Excerpts from The Bell and Pendulum by Travis Marcum

Excerpt 1: 6/8 time. ♩ = 98 BPM, no repeat

Musical notation for Excerpt 1, measures 17-25. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. Measure 17 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Measure 25 includes a first ending bracket and a repeat sign, followed by a red 'X' and a red scribble over the ending.

Excerpt 2: 6/8 time. ♩ = 98 BPM, stop after 2nd harmonic

Musical notation for Excerpt 2, measures 7-15. The music is in G major and 6/8 time. Measure 7 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody is a continuous eighth-note pattern. Measure 15 includes a first ending bracket and a repeat sign, followed by a red scribble. Fingerings *p*, *i*, *m* are indicated above the notes. Harmonic markings *H. XII* and *sim* are present above the guitar staff.

Excerpt 3: 6/8 time. ♩ = 98 BPM, no repeat

Musical notation for Excerpt 3, measures 17-25. The music is in G major and 6/8 time. Measure 17 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Measure 25 includes a first ending bracket and a repeat sign, followed by a red 'X' and a red scribble over the ending.

Excerpt 4: 3/4 time. ♩ = 80 BPM, no repeat. *Freely* can be played in duple feel

32 **Lento** ♩ = 80

*rit.* *p* *mf* *p*

No repeat. Go on.

42 **Freely**

*pp*

# Le Papillon (Butterflies)

op. 50, no. 13

Mauro Giuliani

*p i m i a i m i p i p i p i p i simile*

2 is the "anchor" finger

5

1 becomes the "anchor" finger

9

13

3 becomes the "anchor" finger

*p i m a*

17

No repeat. Take 2nd ending