

ARE THERE TIPS I SHOULD KNOW BEFORE LEARNING THE BANJO?

Banjo is a stringed instrument, and as a beginner, it could be your first attempt at learning to play such instruments. Everything may feel strange since you're not used to this, but keep calm and don't get discouraged because great banjo players were once beginners like you.

To become a professional banjo player, you must ensure that your desire for perfection does not supersede your love for the instrument. It means you must learn from your mistakes and have fun instead of trying to be perfect from the beginning, no matter what it takes.

Proficiency in banjo playing needs more time on the instrument - the more time you spend playing the banjo, the faster you'll learn. Focus on what you can learn at a time instead of trying to find out what people think about the instrument. The most important thing is to gain some basic skills, and then you can start playing with people at your level to speed up the learning process.

Learning materials such as DVDs, smartphones and apps, CDs, and books, which can quickly fast-track a learning process, were introduced recently. Hence, we have accessible technology everywhere around us.

Here, we've listed a few skills to help you master the banjo.

Listen to the music played on a banjo.

Music can be downloaded from online music stores such as iTunes and saved on iPods or phones. You can then listen to them while running, walking, or biking, as the case may be.

Make wise purchase decisions.

There are affordable starter banjos for beginners, and easy to play. What you should do first is to locate an acoustic store specifically for banjos and banjo players. As you make your purchase decision, ensure that the instrument you're purchasing is based on the genre of music you're interested in and the amount of money you can offer.

Tune your banjo

Always try to keep your instrument in tune each time you practice - this is important when playing with others. Although this can be frustrating initially, by paying great attention to each of the pitches produced with a bit of practice, you're on your way to success.

When you're sure of being in tune, choose a comfortable posture for standing and sitting and know that the neck should not be raised too high. Secondly, use a strap. If appropriately utilised, these suggestions will make you discover your comfort zone.

Use your left hand to fret chords.

Melody is supported by chords - the foundation for backing other musicians. If you sound more than three notes together, a chord is produced, and if you want to explore this music world, you must be familiar with G, C, and D7, which are well-known chords.

Position your left hand comfortably to form these chords and have fun, but the thumb should touch the back of the instrument's neck at the top. When you've got this, sink your elbow and shoulder into your body, then use your fingertips to press the strings at the back of the frets.

Use your left and right hands.

As a banjo player, you must learn to coordinate your left hand, create new notes, and make chords while picking with your right hand. When you can allocate specific jobs to both hands and master them, know that you've laid a good foundation for your banjo music production.

Look for specific tunes and practice on your banjo

You'll start having fun with your instrument when you can use banjo styles to showcase your techniques by playing melodies. You can organise melody notes in groups known as Scales, and it's easier to identify melody notes in songs after mastering these scales.

You can now utilise the techniques you learned with your left and right hands after having an authentic feel for the group of notes. Use these techniques to capture melody notes and create arrangements that will give good sounds on your banjo.

Enjoy music with other musicians.

As a banjo player, you can produce music with guitarists, mandolin players, bassists, and fiddlers. But as you play with others, ensure that the sound made by your banjo corresponds with what others play. Listen and play actively with an excellent rhythm to encourage other musicians to give their best.

Meet with other banjo players.

Meeting with lovers of a banjo can expose you to several opportunities, such as interaction with professionals, going to festivals and workshops, and having fun by connecting with people of the same mind.

If you want to learn the banjo fast, interact with other players right from the beginning to learn from their experience instead of waiting until you've acquired more skills before asking for help. Workshops and seminars are being organised for people at all levels, and you can always learn new things by interacting with banjo experts and making new friends.

Maintain the great sound from your banjo.

Banjo as a stringed instrument may be adjusted, compared to the bass or guitar, although you don't need to be an instrument-repair expert to keep it in good shape. The strings must be replaced after some months of playing to keep the instrument running. Always control extra strings with a wire cutter to handle any unplanned occurrence.

Also, ensure that the head of your banjo is kept tight to give a loud, bright sound, with the bridge maintaining its position on the head of the instrument, which will help preserve the tune of the fretted notes.

Overcome your fears

In learning the banjo, you must encounter fear; to become a hero, you must overcome those fears. You cannot become a professional if you don't make mistakes because mistakes are part of the learning process, and that's how some beautiful music was produced.

Conclusion

The tips we've listed here are the best starting points for learners of the banjo. If you are an aspiring banjo-playing professional, you can hire a tutor from a music shop or get an online teacher. There are teachers available online who will assist you in reaching the next level of your playing adventure.

Each player has a particular reason for learning the banjo. Maybe you want to have a banjo-playing experience, or you are a fan of a specific style of music, such as bluegrass music. Whatever reason you may have for learning this stringed instrument, we hope you'll have a pleasurable experience by following these guidelines.

Happy learning.