

# Giovanni Rago

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Musician and guitar teacher with over 10 years' experience delivering lessons to individuals and groups in public and private schools. My teaching method benefits from my expertise in composing music and performing live: I focus on both delivering training in a wide range of techniques, and enabling students to develop their artistic skill and creative process, becoming fully aware of their own style. I am seeking an opportunity to keep supporting the development of passionate aspiring musicians: seeing students enhance their skills and create new and unique music is truly rewarding to me.

## KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- **Excellent teaching skills:** I have over 10 years' experience teaching individual and group guitar classes, covering a wide range of styles. My Conservatory studies enhanced my knowledge of jazz language and my teaching method.
- **Ability to cater for different skill levels and interests:** I work with students with different backgrounds and goals on a daily basis; I am used to planning each session in order to match their skills and requests for specific techniques.
- **Effective time management:** I juggle multiple projects on a daily basis; organisation is key to me, whether I need to ensure classes start and end on time, or schedule rehearsal, recording and live dates with the bands I work with.

## CURRENT ROLES

**Teacher and Director of Pre-Conservatory Jazz courses**  
Vivaldi Music Academy (Sapri, Italy)

Sep 2012 - present

- Delivering individual and paired lessons, focusing on jazz guitar, harmony, composing, ear training (20 1-hour classes per week); planning the content of lessons according to each student's requests for specific pieces or techniques
- Teaching basic and advanced classes (20 students per class) on theory, technique, rhythmic, jazz repertoire evolution
- Developing and rolling out yearly course programmes for the whole department, based on the national curriculum
- Taking part in exam committees, writing and marking 3 exams per year (entry, mid-term, final tests)
- Organising performances for students, so they can put learning into practice and receive feedback
- **Key achievements:** Introduced the Berklee method, pairing technique training with a focus on the creative aspect of making music; my innovations earned the Academy recognition at a national level. Introduced ear training, to help students recognise their phrasing. Helped increase course sign-ups (from 4 to 25 students in 9 months). Wrote 5 textbooks on ear training, harmony, composition and innovation in jazz (all published in 2013 – 2014).

**Head Organiser of Summer Clinics/Guitar Teacher**

2014 - present

Sapri Jazz Waves clinics (8-day full immersion courses, recognised by the Italian Pre-Conservatory Association) – Sapri (Italy)

- Recruiting and managing a team of 7 teachers, in order to prepare programmes for all courses before the clinics
- Teaching daily guitar, ear training and ensemble courses (40 - 60 students per class, 3 groups based on skill level)
- Organising open-air workshops every evening, giving students opportunities to perform live at the festival
- **Key achievement:** Built and nurtured relationships with the organisers of other jazz festivals, leading to opportunities for talented students to book further live performances and work with renowned musicians.

**Modern Guitar Teacher** (self-employed private tutor; regular work with various music schools in Italy) Sep 2004 - present

- Delivering individual lessons, teaching improvisation, rhythmic and harmony (28 1-hour lessons per week)
- Planning lessons according to the students' preferred styles (e.g. pop, rock, funk), or requests for specific techniques
- Liaising with school administrators to arrange lessons, or booking private lessons directly with students

**Live Musician (rock, pop, blues, jazz guitarist)**

2001 – present

- Supporting musicians and bands on regular live performances and tours: organising parts with the band leader,

attending rehearsals, playing live shows booked by an agency, tour manager or the band itself

- Taking part in ad-hoc recording sessions and live shows as supporting guitarist: contributed to over 150 records from artists including Linda, Zeroassoluto, Peppino di Capri, Simone Tomassini, Mariella Nava, Luca Barbarossa

**Key ongoing projects** (details of other collaborations available upon request):

- **Dean Bowman Quartet** (rock, funk): taking part in recording and video shooting sessions; performing with the Quartet throughout the Italian tour (large venues and festivals, audiences up to 60,000 people).
- **Hartmut Saam Trio** (jazz): taking part in the European tour of Italy, France and Germany; directly managing contacts with venues and festivals, to book live shows in niche jazz clubs.
- **Giovanni Rago Duo** (own band, first album in progress): writing instrumental pieces; performing live with a pianist.

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

### Guitar Tutor, Composer and Arranger

Sep 2010 – Dec 2015

JAM (Jobs, Arts and Music) – music school, recording studio and promotion agency in Padula (Italy)

- Taught guitar lessons to emerging musicians, and supported them with the arrangement and recording of pieces
- **Key achievements:** My sound engineering expertise helped increase the quality of records, and develop the studio's portfolio (from 3 to 9 projects per month within 2 months). Co-produced 20 works, generating copyright earnings.

### Soundtrack Composer and Arranger

Sep 2008 – Jun 2013

RAI – Italian national television network

- Composed and recorded soundtracks for feature/short films, TV commercials and documentaries (guitar section)

### Music Teacher (external faculty, 20 hours per week)

Oct 2008 – Jun 2009; Apr 2010 – Jun 2010

Public middle schools of Caselle in Pittari and Sapri; public high school "Carlo Pisacane", Sapri (Italy)

- Taught Music Technology classes to pupils aged 11 - 14, focusing on the musician's role and the practice of recording
- Delivered an educational project to pupils aged 11 – 14, composing music and playing instruments they built in class
- Delivered an educational project to disabled students aged 14 - 19, helping them compose and play music in groups

### Sound Engineer and Musician

Oct 2006 – Jan 2008

Groove Recording and Dubbing Studio – Roma (Italy)

- Supporting the musicians working at the studio: mixing, editing, arranging, recording and synchronising tracks
- Sourcing and operating the most appropriate sound engineering systems for each project

**LANGUAGES:** Fluent in Italian and English

**SYSTEMS EXPERIENCE:** Proficient user of Pro Tools HD, Logic Pro (music recording), Sibelius (composition)

**EDUCATION** (details of short-term workshops, clinics and masterclasses available upon request)

- **Second-Cycle Degree in Jazz Composition** – "G. Martucci" Conservatory, Salerno (Italy), ongoing (until Jul 2017)
- **Second-Cycle Degree in Jazz Guitar** (First Class) – "G. Martucci" Conservatory, Salerno (Italy), 2013 – 2015
- **First-Cycle Degree in Jazz Guitar** (First Class) - "G. Martucci" Conservatory, Salerno (Italy), 2010 – 2013
- **Arrangement and Composition Course** (grade: 10/10) - "Per cento Musica" Academy, Roma (Italy), 2006 - 2008
- **Sound Engineering Qualification** - "Musictre" Music Association, Roma (Italy), 2002 - 2005
- **Modern Guitar Course** (grade: 110/110, honours) - "Per cento Musica" Academy, Roma (Italy), 2001 - 2006

**PERSONAL INTERESTS:** I often read books about music, social media marketing, web writing and startups, to support my professional and personal development. I enjoy creating handmade musical instruments; I run the website [GR Customize](#), where users can order customised amplifiers, analog effects instruments, cabs and pedalboards for guitar and bass. I also love writing about music: I have been a regular columnist for Italian magazines Guitar Club and Mediterraneo Oggi.