

# Denver Guitar Orchestra Certification

**Certification Appointments:** Levels 1 through 4 require a half-hour appointment with a certified instructor. Level 5 and above require more time to demonstrate group skills with the performance requirements. Certification appointments should give you an opportunity to celebrate your achievements – and hopefully stress you out only a little! Maintain open communication with your instructor to help you prepare for your appointment. All certification appointments require a fee to compensate your instructors.

## Prior to Your Exam, We Will:

- Offer you a pre-test to assure readiness.
- Prepare you to pass the performance skills tests.
- Approve any “pre-selections” you want to use in the exam.

## During Your Exam:

- Material used in a lower level may not be duplicated in a higher level.
- You are not judged on singing ability (thank goodness!), but singing is required.
- Use of sheet music is always acceptable unless a skill is to be memorized.
- There will be an oral examination to assure mastery.
- You will help create a written plan with next steps.
- If successful, you will receive your graduation certificate.

**Level 1:** One Chord Songs -- During your exam, you will:

- Effectively tune and hold your guitar.
- Demonstrate memorized chords
  - **A, E, D, G.**
- Play all four songs with voice and chords.
- Play all four melodies using tablature or notation.
- Discuss tonality, posture and theory.
- Create a written plan for Level 2.

**Level 2:** Two Chords-ish Songs – During your exam you will:

- Demonstrate memorized chords
  - **A, Am, A7, B7, C, C7, D, D7, E, E7, F, G.**
- Play songs of instructor’s choice with voice and chords.
- Demonstrate understanding of TuffAxe (chord melody).
- Play melodies of instructor’s choice using tablature or notation.
- Discuss tonality, posture and theory.
- Create a written plan for Level 3.

**Level 3: Multi-Chord Songs – During your exam you will:**

- Demonstrate memorized chords
  - A, Am, A7, Bm, B7, C, C7, D, D7, E, Em, E7, F, F#m, G, G7.
- Play songs of instructor's choice with voice and chords.
- Play TuffAxe on two songs of student's choice.
- Demonstrate understanding of arpeggios.
- Play melodies of student's choice using tablature or notation.
- Play a duet of instructor's choice.
- Discuss tonality, posture and theory.
- Create a written plan for Level 4.

**Level 4: Iconic Songs – During your exam you will:**

- Play songs of student's choice with voice and chords.
- Play TuffAxe on two songs.
- Play a memorized solo.
- Play arpeggios in a duet with instructor.
- Play a lead in a duet with instructor.
- Discuss tonality, posture and theory.
- Create a written plan for Level 5.

**Level 5: Multipart Arrangements – During your exam you will:**

- Play songs of student's choice with voice and chords.
- Play two memorized solos.
- Play a prepared duet with another student or instructor.
- Play an arrangement with a small ensemble written by the student.
- Discuss tonality, posture and theory.
- Create a written plan for Level 6.

**Level 6: Member Created Arrangements – During your exam you will:**

- Play songs with voice and chords.
- Perform a half-hour solo show.
- Play in a small ensemble.
- Conduct a large ensemble with new arrangement.
- Discuss tonality, posture and theory.
- Create a written plan for Level 7.

**Level 7: Teacher Certification – During your exam you will:**

- Demonstrate playing ability.
- Provide evidence of a daily practice routine.
- Organize and present a concert with DGO.
- Complete a written examination on standard notation.
- Complete a written examination on music theory.
- Provide a written plan to develop teaching studio.
- Discuss your goals, mission, and philosophy of guitar pedagogy.