

# JIMMY OWEN

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## Teaching overview

Music composition, performance, theory and history lecturer and teacher at BA(Hons), BMus, A Level, GCSE & primary levels; department head; BA course designer; peripatetic guitar/piano/theory tutor; examiner & MD

## Performing overview

Guitarist, singer-songwriter, pianist, producer, arranger, MD  
Endorsed by PRS Guitars, Victory Amps, Kool Amps, Flattley Pedals, Audient  
Songwriter & lead singer/guitarist for Lethbridge Owen

Fully DBS Checked



Today's music students find themselves overwhelmed by an abundance of quick-fix learning shortcuts and cookie-cutter products, in a digital world that often undermines the essential values I hold dear in my approach to teaching. The first is perhaps the most fundamental skill for any musician: harnessing the full expressive power of their instrument through the technical mastery that comes with conscientious practise – crucially, by knowing *what* and *how* to practise, and how tools and technologies can aid (or confuse) the process. The second is the key importance of cultural and historical context in musical understanding, which I emphasise through a holistic approach to teaching of genre, style and era. The third is the necessity of a thorough grasp of advanced harmony as an essential compositional and improvisational tool for students emerging from higher education, to set their vocabulary apart from those who have chosen to study only the limited language of their own field.

I care passionately about instilling these values in students by inspiring them about what they can achieve, and through leading by example. I regard all teaching, be it lecturing or one-to-one, as a form of mentoring in which my own enthusiasm and love of playing and songwriting plays an essential role. The pursuit and professionalisation of creativity in any of the arts, but perhaps most of all in music, is an emotionally fraught and sometimes traumatic path, and I try at all times to nurture and encourage students' sense of self-worth, tailoring my teaching methods to their personal strengths. The same values have informed my approach to managing adults, resolving diplomatic issues and building happy, well-functioning teams.

At the same time I am always focused on improving my own skills and effectiveness, and push myself to seek out professional opportunities which will challenge me and demand my very best.

## Personal Summary

### Overview

I am a highly experienced music lecturer with 14 years' professional teaching experience across all ages and levels, teaching 60-100 students weekly at performance-based universities, secondary schools, prep schools and academies. I am comfortable teaching performance and composition/songwriting in all non-classical 20th century genres (rock, jazz, pop, blues, country), advanced theory and harmony, history and cultural perspectives, and analysis. In addition to lecturing and leading seminars and masterclasses, I have designed degree-level courses from the ground up and worked as Head of Music in both an internal and freelance consultant capacity.

### Lecturing & teaching

I have lectured and mentored students at some of the country's top music universities, institutes and academies delivering BA(Hons), BMus, BTec, A Level, GCSE & Diploma level courses. I also have over a decade of teaching experience at Key Stage 1-5, offering exam primers (both classical and contemporary), music theory tuition, ABRSM and RockschooL/RGT grade 1-8 tuition, and performance workshops and masterclasses, with a high distinction track record. Many of my students have excelled and gone on to study at the world's top music colleges and schools.

### Management

I gained invaluable experience in management through my role as Head Of Music at VFPS, where I excelled in staff development and team building, getting the best out of individuals regardless of the situation or challenge.

### Performing

I am very active within the music industry as a performer (principally guitarist but also singer and pianist) and recording artist. I am known as a cross-genre performer and am equally comfortable playing technically challenging repertoire across rock, jazz, blues, pop and (piano) classical genres. My band Lethbridge Owen, which is my main current songwriting, producing and performing project, regularly headlines London & UK-wide rock venues and festivals. Over the course of my career I am lucky enough to have worked with and studied under some of the world's top music professionals, including David Gilmour (Pink Floyd), Guthrie Govan (The Aristocrats, Asia, Dizzee Rascal), Chris Maresh (Eric Johnson), Justin Sandercoe (Katie Melua), Carmine Rojas (Tina Turner, Joe Bonnamassa), Martin Goulding, Ace (Skunk Anansie), Marcus Marlone, Innes Sibun and many more.

### Press/reviews

At age twenty-one I was featured in *Total Guitar Magazine* as an up-and-coming guitarist and "one to watch". In 2019 *Guitarist Magazine* wrote "fabulous playing, an incredible guitarist". For more press/testimonials and full performance bio please visit my website. Lethbridge Owen is delighted to have received widespread critical acclaim for our 2019 album *Mind Over Matter* (website [here](#); Bio & EPK [here](#)).

## Work Experience

### **British Institute of Modern Music (BIMM) London – Lecturer**

*(2012 – ongoing)*

- Scheme of work production and content writing for BA(Hons), BMus & Diploma
- Lecturing in: guitar, songwriting, cultural & analytical perspectives, and live performance
- Auditions and live performance unit assessments
- Class and MD sessions
- Lesson planning and evaluation
- Marking essays and projects for BA(Hons), BMus, Diploma
- IV marking.

### **WaterBear (University of Chichester) – Lecturer**

*(2017 - 19)*

- Scheme of work production and content writing, developing BA(Hons) course from scratch prior to institution launch
- Lecturing in: applied musicianship, LPW and BA(Hons) music theory
- Live band performance coordination, MDing and assessment
- Lesson planning and evaluation
- Team teaching
- One-on-one mentoring sessions for BA Dissertations.

### **Virgo Fidelis Preparatory School – Head of Music**

*(2016 – 2018)*

- Tutor observation and evaluation including performance feedback and conflict resolution
- Administration of department finances and tutor payments/salaries
- Parent-teacher relationship management
- Report writing and reference provision for secondary institutions
- Lesson planning and timetabling (including peripatetic tutor organisation)
- Writing and delivery of national curriculum music KS1-3
- Child protection and ECM training
- One-to-one peripatetic ABRSM piano & guitar teaching (beginner to advanced level)
- Creating arrangements, score-writing, MDing & piano accompaniment for musicals across all year groups
- Live performances for all school events/occasions.

### **Harris Academy – Music department development consultancy**

*(2019 – ongoing)*

- Ongoing external consultancy into developing a fledgeling music department (KS3-5 incl A Level & GCSE)
- Launching, coordinating and MDing ensemble workshops for internal and external performances
- One-on-one student musical development.

**St Josephs College – Secondary music teacher***(2014 - 2016)*

- Teaching of KS4-5 A Level, GCSE & BTec
- Staff briefings
- Writing and delivery of BTec Edexcel units
- Lesson planning and NQT training
- Timetabling and exam preparation
- Form time
- Live performance MD
- One-to-one instrumental teaching for ABCRSM/Rockschool grades (guitar & piano) from beginning to advanced level
- Child protection and ECM training
- Report writing.

**Sittingbourne Community College – Secondary music teacher & guitar/piano tutor***(2010 – 2013)**Roles & responsibilities very similar to St Josephs College (above) – in addition:*

- Full large-ensemble productions including coordinating lighting & technical production
- Bass guitar & piano tuition (including classical).

**Brighton Guitar Academy - Head of Advanced Guitar***(2008 – 2009)*

- Teaching modern guitar studies post Van Halen
- Individual and group tuition (ages 7 – 45)
- Course note production.

**Other work experience**

- Musico South (teaching agency): private guitar & piano lessons ages 7 - 45
- The North American Guitar (guitar retailer): media & product demonstrator. Role included developing creative media concepts, guitar product demos, instrument research & client relationship building/sales
- Sainsbury's: supervisor / checkout manager.

**Academic Qualifications**

BA(Hons) Professional Musicianship (unconditional offer), Brighton Institute of Modern Music  
2006 - 2009

HNDip, Brighton Institute of Modern Music  
2005 - 2006

NDiploma Musicianship, Guitar Institute of Technology  
2004 - 2005



## References

Professional references available on request.

## Student Testimonials

"When opting to start guitar lessons, all I thought I was going to learn was simply how to play the guitar, but I came away with much more than that – I came away with a new state of mind, awareness, and an ever-growing love to express my music through the guitar medium." *Alice Oxley, BTec student, Kent*

"I've been in a musical funk for a long while! Jimmy really inspired me in a way no one else has!"  
*Laura Hebblewhite, BIMM BA(Hons) student*

"Jimmy's teaching is second to none. He has helped me improve my playing to reach levels that I didn't think was possible. If I ever needed any help or I had a question to ask I could always go to him for the answer, because his knowledge of his instrument and music is general is inspiring. The focus of our lessons was on scales/modes, "CAGED" positions and theory, which has helped me get my place at BIMM in Brighton. He is a great guitar teacher, I would recommend to others" *Max Tatton, BIMM student, Brighton*

"When it came to guitar, Jimmy taught me a lot of things within a day that most videos would fail to teach me in a week! He knew what it was like when he was a beginner and would give me advice to not stress out and take it slow as I often got frustrated when I could play a certain part of a song. BTEC lessons were always something I looked forward to because Jimmy had a certain way of teaching and never made it boring. He always explained things right down to the t and always used examples within modern day music or through his own playing. Its a shame that I only was taught by him for a year!" *Enrico Montana, post-16 student St Joseph's College*