

Guitar man

By SARICHA INTACHUM

Plucking professional strums his way to success

Music is a **crucial** part of human experience. The perfect companion for a happy mood, music is also the best medicine to soothe sad hearts.

But for Sumet Noirung, music isn't just a way of expressing emotion — it's a way of life and a career choice. A **versatile** musician whose talents range from the **harmonica** to the **mandolin**, Sumet is most at home behind his treasured Taylor acoustic guitar, the instrument **favoured** by musicians as **diverse** as Michelle Branch, rockers Aerosmith

and pop-country crossovers the Dixie Chicks.

PATIENCE PAYS OFF

After strumming his strings in bars and pubs for many years, Sumet decided it was time to teach. So, for the past 15 years, Sumet has been patiently passing on his **wisdom** and experience to a new generation of guitarists.

Previous musical skills are less important to Sumet than commitment. "I'm willing to teach anyone who loves music, but the most important things are determination and patience." As Sumet points out, unlike academic subjects, there are no

PLUCK (v)

to play a musical instrument, especially a guitar, by pulling the strings with your fingers

STRUM (v)

to play a guitar or similar instrument by moving your fingers up and down across the strings

CRUCIAL (adj)

extremely important, because it will affect other things

VERSATILE (adj)

(of a person) able to do many different things

HARMONICA (n)

a small musical instrument

<<PROFESSIONAL PROFILES

that you hold near your mouth and play by blowing or sucking air through it

MANDOLIN (n)

a musical instrument with metal strings (usually eight) arranged in pairs

FAVOURABLE (adj)

preferred by most people

DIVERSE (adj)

very different from each other and of various kinds

WISDOM (n)

the ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have

CATER TO SOMEBODY (phrasal v)

to provide the things that a particular type or person wants

PERSEVERANCE (n)

the quality of continuing to try to achieve a particular aim in spite of difficulties

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short cuts or cheats to perfecting guitar techniques.

FANCY FINGERS

Sumet offers five courses tailored to students' requirements and based around five guitar styles: classical, fingerstyle (in which individual strings are plucked with each finger), jazz, blues and rock. His classes are designed to **cater** to all abilities — for those new to the instrument, Sumet provides easy lessons so that students can practise at home.

For students who already have a

DID YOU KNOW?

The harmonica is the world's best-selling music instrument.

basic background, Sumet provides new tips and techniques to improve their skills.

As with most musical classes, Sumet prefers to teach one-to-one. "In a small class I can pay close attention to every student," he said.

It's this dedication that is crucial to

anybody who wants to teach the guitar. Simply being able to play doesn't guarantee that somebody will be a good teacher; recognising individual needs and talents are key to success, as is **perseverance** when beginners come unstuck.

And passing these skills on is also crucial — after all, today's students may well end up as tomorrow's teachers.



Photographs by SARICHA INTACHUM