

## Meet the Instructor - Rich Freese

Hi, my name is Dr. Rich Freese, and I'm excited to be your instructor for this course.

**Welcome and introductory statement**

Just a little bit about myself--I started diving into the music world in late high school when I started teaching myself how to play guitar. From there, I've had the chance to study music in college and have since earned degrees in music with a focus on composition, essentially creating music, and also the branch of music theory, which is analyzing music. But guitar performance and music history are also interests and passions of mine. I've had the chance to perform with jazz groups, with some orchestras, as a solo player, and also with a lot of church-music experience.

**Education and Professional background**

My favorite musicians, especially when I was starting to get into music, were rock bands like Metallica or Dream Theater or Genesis, along with video music. I played a lot of video games as a kid, and especially Nobuo Uematsu's work with the Final Fantasy series has greatly influenced me as a musician. And since, I've had a chance to dive into, or at least listen to a wide variety of music. I love listening to lots of classical music of different eras, music from different parts of the world, and all these different subgenres of rock and popular music.

**Personal biographical information (Optional)**

When studying music, I especially enjoy thinking about what makes a piece of music work. And as I'm thinking about that, I'm thinking about, what parts do I especially like and how are these parts of music used throughout a piece of music? As a composer, I often think of creating music almost as if I'm playing with LEGOs, that I might have this one part that will go here and this other part that gets built on top of it.

**Education and Professional background**

Now as you go through the course, if you encounter anything at all that's not making sense, please let me know. I can remember in college being the kid who didn't quite grasp what was going on, especially when I first started studying music. So if things aren't making sense, rest assured that I've been there and I am really happy to help. And just in general, best wishes on your journey through the course.

**Closing**