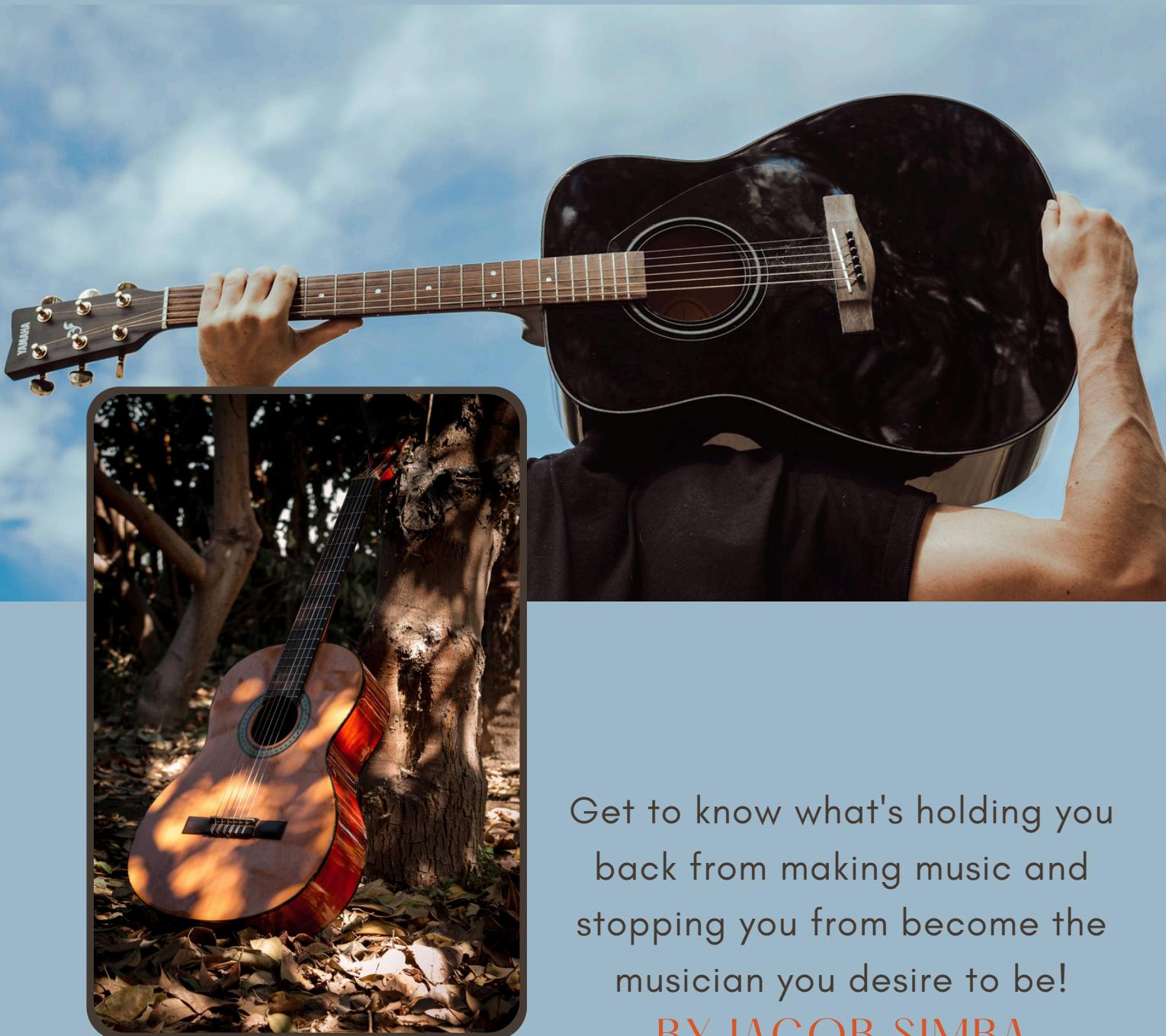


# 9 Reasons why YOU'RE NOT REALIZING YOUR MUSICAL POTENTIAL



Get to know what's holding you back from making music and stopping you from becoming the musician you desire to be!

BY JACOB SIMBA

# What's stopping you from making music?

Many people have desired to embark on the exciting journey of becoming musicians, but only a few manage to take the steps necessary to fulfill their dreams. Often, the obstacles we face aren't external but are rooted in our own minds. Below is a list of 9 common mental barriers that can prevent us from getting started. These obstacles vary from person to person, but they often feel like insurmountable challenges. However, by recognizing and confronting these mental hurdles, we can break free and begin the fulfilling journey of learning to play an instrument.

*important tip*



Focus on the enjoyment of playing rather than the end result. The more you have fun with your instrument, the more likely you'll stick with it, and the less daunting the learning process will feel.

With the right mindset and approach, anyone can overcome these obstacles and discover the joy of playing music. We will explore some of the most common excuses people use to avoid learning an instrument and provide practical tips to help break through them. It's never too late to pick up an instrument and start your musical journey!



## 1. Lack of Time

“I’m too busy” or “I don’t have time” is one of the most common reasons, especially for people with demanding jobs and responsibilities. You don’t have to practice for long periods of time. You can start with short practice sessions, even 10 to 15 minutes a day, or every other day. Focus on consistency over duration, and you’ll see progress.

## 2. Fear of Failure

“I’m not talented” or “I’m too old to learn” can discourage people, making them feel they won’t succeed. You need to understand that learning an instrument is a journey, and everyone starts as a beginner. Celebrate small wins along the way and build confidence.

“Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway.”

**Earl Nightingale**



## *important tip*

Celebrate every milestone, no matter how small. Rewarding yourself for your efforts can boost motivation and reinforce your commitment to learning.

### 3. Impatience

“It takes too long to get good” or “I want quick results” reflects impatience with the learning process. It is vital to set achievable, short-term goals. Break the learning process into smaller steps, such as mastering a simple chord or song, which will help you feel accomplished and stay motivated.

### 4. Self-Doubt

“I’ll never be as good as others” or “I don’t want to look silly” stops many people from trying out something new. Instead, focus on your progress rather than comparing yourself to others. Remember, everyone learns at their own pace.

## 5. Feeling Overwhelmed

“It looks too complicated” or “I don’t even know where to start” can make the process seem daunting. Take it one step at a time. You can choose a few simple songs or basic chords to start with. As you become more comfortable, gradually add more complexity to your practice.

## 6. Procrastination

“I’ll start next week” or “I’ll do it when I have more time” leads to continuous delays. Commit to starting right now, even if it’s just picking up the instrument for a few minutes. Setting a regular schedule can help form a habit.

## 7. Comparison

“My friend is already too good” or “I don’t think I’ll stick with it like so and so” can make people feel inadequate before they even start. Focus on your journey and progress instead of others. Everyone has a different learning curve, and comparing yourself can hinder your growth. Purpose to celebrate your unique milestones.



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Learning an instrument takes time, so be kind to yourself and recognize that progress may be gradual. Patience and persistence are key to becoming a confident musician.

## 8. Lack of motivation

“I’m just not motivated right now” or “I don’t think I’ll stick with it” prevents people from taking the first step. Identify the ‘why’ for learning the instrument, whether it’s to relax, impress someone, or play your favourite songs. Having a clear purpose will help sustain your motivation.

## 9. Perfectionism

“I don’t want to start until I can do it perfectly” leads to hesitation instead of action. Accept that mistakes are part of the learning process and instead of striving for perfection, aim for consistent improvement. Every mistake is a step toward mastering the instrument.



# Conclusion

The journey to learning a new instrument is often more about overcoming internal barriers than external challenges. The excuses we make—whether it's a lack of time, fear of failure, or the belief that we're not talented enough—can hold us back from experiencing the joy and fulfillment that music can bring. By addressing these obstacles head-on and adopting practical strategies, anyone can break free from their doubts and start making progress. Remember, every great musician started as a beginner. The most important step is to take action and enjoy the process of learning, one note at a time. Your musical journey awaits—don't let excuses keep you from starting it.



Thank you!

“The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.” — B.B. King



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