

## STANDARD NOTATION VERSUS TABLATURE

There are two types of music notation typically used by guitarists to learn music: standard notation and tablature (tab). Standard notation is the traditional notation used by most musicians. When we speak about reading music or *sight-reading*, we are usually referring to standard notation. It is a comprehensive system that allows you to read and write music. Tablature, on the other hand, is a simplified system of reading and writing music, which applies only to string instruments.

### ABOUT STANDARD NOTATION

- 1) Standard notation is the language of all musical instruments. If you play together with musicians that are using standard notation, you can understand each other's concepts and communicate using the same terminology.
- 2) By learning the alphabetical names of the notes, you are also learning where the notes are on the fretboard of the guitar.
- 3) While you are learning to read music, you are also learning how music theory works, through concepts such as rhythm, keys, harmony and scales. So in essence, you get a bigger picture of music.
- 4) Since standard notation is such a comprehensive notation system, it expresses details that can not be expressed using tablature.
- 5) If you intend to study music in school and college, or do research about music, you will need to read and write standard notation.

### ABOUT TABLATURE

- 1) Tablature is easy to read, so beginners see progress faster and they get excited and encouraged.
- 2) Tabs show you exactly where to play the notes on the fretboard.
- 3) Tabs for pop songs are easy to find.
- 4) You can use tablature for playing other string instruments.
- 5) When playing altered tunings, tablature does not change, so it is less complicated.