

*Christian Cappelluti*

## **How I developed my Perfect Pitch ability**

The first time I've ever heard about perfect pitch I was 16 years old. The high-school rock band where I was the lead guitarist was competing in a contest for emerging groups, and we had made our way to the final rounds. There were only 7 bands left, and we were confident we were better musicians than most of the other groups, whose members we knew very well. We really thought we were going to win the first prize. There was only one band, called The Faith Healers, that none of us had ever heard of. Those guys were from another State, and seemed to have somehow climbed their way to the top just like we had. Our band was scheduled to go second-to-last, and The Faith Healers was the closing act.

I was hanging out in the back-stage, about 30 minutes before our performance, and all of a sudden something caught my attention. A bunch of people were closely assembled around a young guy with a guitar. This kid was blindfolded, and he was immediately duplicating on his guitar whatever note, chord, lick, or progression the other musicians around him were playing on their instruments. Somebody would play a Db13 chord and the blindfolded guy would play the exact same chord on his guitar, in the blink of an eye. Another member of the audience hit a Bb on the piano. "Bb one octave below middle C," said the young musician promptly. Then somebody turned on a small transistor radio and started to quickly switch from station to station. That young phenomenal guitar player, that I learned to be The Faith Healers' lead guitarist, was able to duplicate and improvise on everything that was being played on the radio, without even looking at his guitar's neck. "How in the world can he do that?" I asked, literally overwhelmed by this young musician's talent. "He was born with perfect pitch" was the answer, "he does not even need a tuning fork to tune his guitar!" added The Faith Healers' lead singer, with a grin. That night we came in second.

The Faith Healers won the contest, but at that time I didn't even care. I was too much fascinated with what I had witnessed to in the backstage. "He was born with perfect pitch..." those words kept ringing in my ears for several days. I shared that incredible experience with my music instructors, and they all told me that, unfortunately, only one musician in a million has the gift of that supernatural ability. You can only be born with such a superior ear. If you're not, you're doomed forever. I was extremely disappointed by these findings.

A few months later, I was in my dorm room at Berklee College of Music, where I was studying for the summer, when I came across a very unusual ad in a music magazine. Here was a guy called David L. Burge who claimed that he could *teach* you perfect pitch with his ear training course. This was radically against everything else that I had always been told. Perfect pitch can't be learned! It would be too good to be true. I discussed the issue with my roommate. "That's just hype!" he said, "Everybody knows that if you were not born with perfect pitch you cannot develop it through training! I wish I had perfect pitch, because everything would be easier in music if I did, but, just like 99% of the other musicians out there, I wasn't that lucky, and I have to get by with this unsophisticated ear of mine, that can barely tell major chords from minor chords!" In spite of my roommate's reaction, I decided to save the ad and order the course. I didn't know at that time, but that apparently insignificant decision was going to change my musical life forever. "Learning perfect pitch...I know it sounds too good to be true, but I'll give it a fair chance," I thought.

A month later, I was surprising all my friends with my progress with the course. I was keeping my course secret, and nobody could figure out how, all of a sudden I was able to instantly identify F#'s and Bb's. I was religiously practicing 40 minutes every evening and I was keeping a journal to record my improvements.

Three months later all my high school buddies were calling me Mozart, and I felt good. Musicians from my hometown came to my door to see me perform my magic

trick. Doorbells, windchimes, birds singing, bottles ringing, you name it. I could accurately recognize a specific note in every sound I heard. My guitar playing had also undergone an amazing transformation. My newly acquired perfect pitch allowed me to learn from records, concerts and videos in an amazingly more efficient way. A guitar solo that would have normally taken me weeks to transcribe, could be mastered in a matter of minutes, using my magical skill.

The following year my group entered another competition. This time we were number one, and I was also nominated the best guitar player. The Faith Healers finished in second place. I was moved to tears. That day was one of the most memorable victories in my life, and I know that I owe it all to David L. Burge's Perfect Pitch Ear-Training Supercourse.

Today I chose to reveal the secret to my success. Millions of other musicians around the world must know how phenomenal this course really is, so that they can too achieve their musical dreams and accomplish a superior state of artistic consciousness.

Thank you David for making all this possible. You have changed my life forever!

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