

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION



### CHAPTER 1 BUYING A GUITAR AND TUNING IT 20

- 1.1 FIRST STEP - BUYING A GUITAR 22
- 1.2 SECOND STEP - TUNING YOUR GUITAR 25
- 1.3 TUNINGS OTHER THAN THE NORMAL TUNING (EADGBE) 27



### CHAPTER 2 NOTATING MUSIC FOR THE GUITAR 28

- 2.1 THE TABLATURE SYSTEM FOR GUITAR 30
- 2.2 THE SCORE SYSTEM FOR GUITAR 36
- 2.3 RELATING NOTES TO THE FINGERBOARD 44
  - AMAZING GRACE 45
  - MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB 46
  - KISS ME GOODNIGHT 47
- 2.4 OTHER WAYS TO NOTATE MUSIC 48
- 2.5 A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MUSICAL INTERVALS 49
- 2.6 CREATING A MAJOR SCALE IN A CERTAIN KEY 51
- 2.7 ABOUT MAKING A MINOR SCALE 53
- 2.8 CIRCLE OF FIFTHS 54
- 2.9 THE DYNAMICS OF A PIECE OF MUSIC 57
- 2.10 OTHER MUSICAL SYMBOLS & EXPRESSIONS 58



### CHAPTER 3 INTRODUCING CHORD THEORY 62

- 3.1 SOMETHING ABOUT MAJOR AND MINOR CHORDS 65
- 3.2 THE CIRCLE OF FIFTHS AND CHORDS 66
- 3.3 MORE ABOUT CHORDS 67
- 3.4 HARMONIZING – FINDING THE RIGHT CHORDS 74
  - WE SHALL OVERCOME 76
- 3.5 SUMMING UP 79



## CHAPTER 4 COMPOSING & ARRANGING MUSIC 80

|       |                                          |     |
|-------|------------------------------------------|-----|
| 4.1   | COMPOSING INSTRUMENTAL PIECES FOR GUITAR | 82  |
| 4.1.1 | CREATING MENTAL PICTURES                 | 85  |
|       | FROM TINNET TO TANGE                     | 86  |
| 4.1.2 | CONVEYING SPECIFIC MOODS                 | 91  |
|       | UNDER IMPRESSIONS OF THE BLUE HOUR       | 92  |
| 4.1.3 | WORKING WITH INTERESTING SOUNDS          | 96  |
|       | STRANGE SPHERES                          | 96  |
| 4.2   | ARRANGING FOR THE GUITAR                 | 100 |
| 4.3   | COMPOSING SONGS ON THE GUITAR            | 100 |
|       | AUTUMN REMAINS UNVISITED                 | 102 |
|       | LIES AND DECEPTIONS                      | 110 |
| 4.4   | TRANSCRIBING PIANO MUSIC FOR THE GUITAR  | 115 |
|       | MICHAEL ROW YOUR BOAT ASHORE             | 119 |



## CHAPTER 5 PLAYING GUITAR – THE BASICS 122

|       |                                              |     |
|-------|----------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5.1   | YOUR RIGHT AND LEFT HAND                     | 124 |
| 5.2   | METHODS OF PLAYING GUITAR                    | 127 |
| 5.3   | FIRST STEP – STRUMMING CHORDS                | 130 |
|       | HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS        | 131 |
|       | LITTLE BOXES                                 | 133 |
|       | THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND                       | 137 |
|       | ME AND BOBBY McGEE                           | 140 |
| 5.4   | SECOND STEP - FINGERPICKING & BASIC ELEMENTS | 148 |
| 5.4.1 | PATTERN PICKING                              | 149 |
|       | IRENE, GOODNIGHT IRENE                       | 150 |
|       | HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN                      | 154 |
|       | THE SLOOP JOHN B.                            | 156 |
| 5.4.2 | OTHER BASIC FINGERPICKING PATTERNS           | 159 |
| 5.4.3 | MELODIOUS PATTERN PICKING                    | 162 |
|       | FREIGHT TRAIN                                | 164 |
|       | MY BONNIE LIES OVER THE OCEAN                | 169 |
| 5.4.4 | FINGERPICKING & SOLO GUITAR                  | 175 |
| 5.5   | ADDING OTHER TECHNICAL ELEMENTS              | 175 |
| 5.6   | ABOUT USING A CAPO                           | 183 |



## CHAPTER 6 FOLK GUITAR 186

|     |                                |     |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|
| 6.1 | WHERE DO FOLK SONGS COME FROM? | 188 |
| 6.2 | THE STRUCTURE OF FOLK SONGS    | 188 |
| 6.3 | THE LYRICS OF FOLK SONGS       | 189 |
| 6.4 | COUNTRY/FOLK GUITAR SCALES     | 189 |

|     |                                                       |     |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 6.5 | FOLK GUITAR PLAYING STYLES                            | 192 |
| 6.6 | FOLK GUITAR – SONGS                                   | 192 |
|     | JAMAICA FAREWELL                                      | 194 |
|     | WHEN FIRST I EVER SAW YOU                             | 200 |
|     | THE ELEPHANTS LULLABY                                 | 206 |
|     | PUFF, THE MAGIC DRAGON                                | 212 |
|     | I THINK, IT'S WONDERFUL                               | 218 |
| 6.7 | FOLK GUITAR - INSTRUMENTALS                           | 222 |
|     | THE FIELD IS HARVESTED/MUCH TOO LONG...               | 224 |
|     | AT THE MARKET                                         | 228 |
|     | THE FINAL DANCE                                       | 234 |
|     | IN THE FORESTS' DEEP AND QUIET PEACE/NOW THE EARTH... | 240 |
|     | CHORO                                                 | 244 |



## CHAPTER 7 BLUES GUITAR

248

|     |                                          |     |
|-----|------------------------------------------|-----|
| 7.1 | WHERE DOES THE BLUES COME FROM?          | 250 |
| 7.2 | THE STRUCTURE OF BLUES                   | 252 |
| 7.3 | THE LYRICS OF THE BLUES                  | 252 |
| 7.4 | BLUES GUITAR SCALES                      | 253 |
| 7.5 | BLUES GUITAR PLAYING STYLES              | 257 |
| 7.6 | BLUES GUITAR – SONGS                     | 260 |
|     | NOBODY'S BUSINESS                        | 264 |
|     | DISGRACE BLUES                           | 268 |
|     | THE RICHLAND WOMEN BLUES                 | 268 |
|     | GOODMORNING BLUES                        | 274 |
|     | ST. JAMES' INFIRMERY                     | 280 |
|     | HESITATION BLUES                         | 286 |
|     | MIDNIGHT SPECIAL                         | 290 |
|     | I'M BROKE & I'M HUNGRY & DIRTY TOO BLUES | 296 |
|     | FISHING BLUES                            | 302 |
| 7.7 | BLUES GUITAR - INSTRUMENTALS             | 308 |
|     | QUICK STEP CANDYMAN                      | 309 |
|     | RIVER BANK BLUES                         | 312 |



## CHAPTER 8 RAGTIME GUITAR

316

|     |                                          |     |
|-----|------------------------------------------|-----|
| 8.1 | THE STRUCTURE OF CLASSICAL RAGTIME MUSIC | 319 |
| 8.2 | CHORD PROGRESSIONS IN COUNTRY RAGTIME    | 320 |
| 8.3 | THE LYRICS OF RAGTIME                    | 321 |
| 8.4 | RAGTIME GUITAR SCALES                    | 321 |
| 8.5 | RAGTIME GUITAR PLAYING STYLES            | 322 |

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| 8.6 COUNTRY RAGTIME GUITAR - SONGS         | 323 |
| RAG, MAMA RAG                              | 324 |
| HOT TIME IN OLD TOWN TONIGHT               | 330 |
| THE HORRIFIC DEEDS OF MR. JOHNSON          | 336 |
| RAGTIME MILLIONAIRE                        | 342 |
| SHE'S GOT SOMETHING THERE                  | 348 |
| TO BE OR NOT TO BE                         | 352 |
| 8.7 COUNTRY RAGTIME GUITAR - INSTRUMENTALS | 357 |
| DRY BONE SHUFFLE RAG                       | 358 |
| VICTORY RAG                                | 364 |
| LITTLE BIT OF GARY – A TINY BIT RAG        | 368 |
| JAZZ MY YAS YAS                            | 372 |
| 8.8 CLASSICAL RAGTIME GUITAR               | 378 |
| ELITE SYNCOPATIONS                         | 380 |
| PINEAPPLE RAG                              | 386 |
| FELICITY RAG                               | 392 |
| RAGTIME NIGHTMARE                          | 398 |





