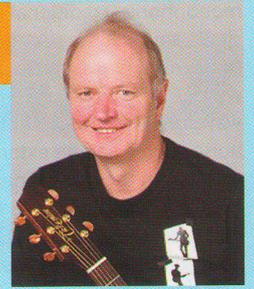


with Kevin Downing



Having Some Classical Fun

Many guitarists never get to venture outside of rock music, but there are plenty of great songs within other genres of music that lay undiscovered. One favourite of my students is classical music. Yes, you can play classical music on your electric or acoustic guitar and it will sound fine.

If you are strictly a rock player, you will find many new ideas lay within this genre – new melodies, harmonies, rhythms, etc, that you most probably haven't played or heard before so there are many benefits. Many rock bands have covered classical tunes to – check out Jethro Tulls' version of J.S. Bach's *Bouree in Emi*,

or listen to Metallica (or most other successful metal bands) for their classical influences.

The tune I have picked for this lesson is one of Bach's most famous and you will most probably have heard it before. If you look at the music you can see it is played all in the open position. However more experienced players might want to play it in the second position, or higher still for practice. Remember to play all the quarter notes (or crotchets) as down strokes, and the eighth notes (or quavers) as down/up strokes to get a good rhythmic flow. This tune has some interesting string skips and some high notes at the beginning of the B

section, so take care with them.

The tune is in triple meter and has a binary form and each section is 16 bars long. The A section is two eight bar phrases with similar melodies, while the B section has two eight bar phrases that are different. Overall, this tune is not too difficult to memorise.

If you are playing an electric guitar you will find that most classical tunes sound great with an overdriven sound, but be careful of open strings ringing on when they shouldn't. If you have trouble with the open strings ringing then it would be best to play the melody up the neck in another position.

The benefits of learning some classical tunes include improving your reading of music, learning new melodic ideas, your right hand technique will improve due to a lot of string skipping, and of course - impressing your friends.

In my younger days I spent around 15 years studying classical guitar with Len Doran in Wellington while I was playing in rock bands. At the time many of my rock music friends thought I was crazy, but the benefits among others to numerous to mention here, have been I have better musical understanding, and ability to read music. The new year approaches, I challenge readers to give it a go.

To hear this tune visit my website at <http://www.guitar.co.nz/category/resources/freelessons/>

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The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff below it. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes chord diagrams above the treble staff and fret numbers on the tablature staff. The first system (bars 1-7) features chords G, D7, and G. The second system (bars 8-14) features chords D7, G, D, Em, and A. The third system (bars 15-20) features chords A7, D, A7, D7, G, and C. The fourth system (bars 21-26) features chords G, D7, G, D7, and G. The score includes first and second endings, with the first ending leading back to the beginning of the piece.