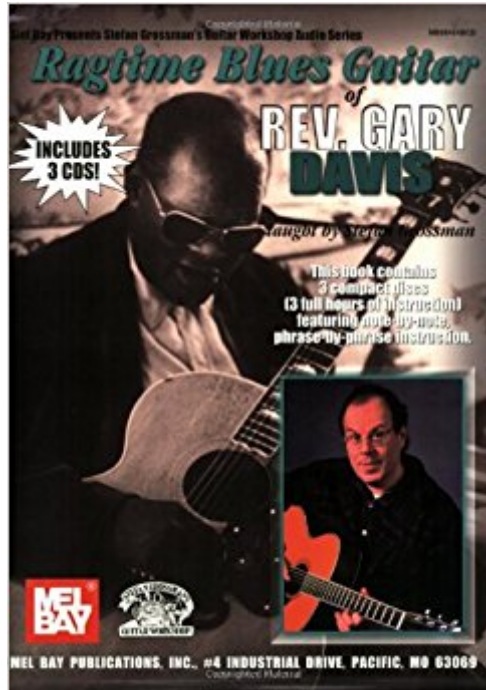


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Ragtime Blues Guitar Of Rev. Gary Davis



Synopsis

Rev. Gary Davis was a musical giant. His ideas spanned a wide range of techniques and styles. His repertoire featured blues, rags, show instrumentals and gospel songs. He played with his thumb and index finger to pick out complex melodies, rhythmic licks and lightning fast single-string runs. In this book, seven of Rev. Davis's blues are presented. These arrangements have been performed and recorded by a host of great artists including Bob Dylan, Taj Mahal, Hot Tuna, David Bromberg, John Renbourn, Bert Jansch and many others. These lessons are for the intermediate to advanced fingerstyle guitarist. The accompanying three CD lessons teach these arrangements phrase by phrase as well as presenting the original recordings. LESSON ONE: Our first lesson highlights two of Rev. Davis's most popular blues arrangements. Hesitation Blues is played in the key of C. Baby, Let Me Follow You Down is played in the key of G. LESSON TWO: The key of C was a favorite for Rev. Davis. In this lesson we explore the party tune Sally Where'd You Get Your Liquor From (made popular by Hot Tuna). Rev. Davis used to joke that he could play Candyman so many different ways that he would be able to play it nonstop for at least 8 hours without repeating himself! We look at two versions of this very popular folk blues with the regular Candyman followed by the Two-Step Candyman. LESSON THREE: "Raggin' the blues" was a great part of Rev. Davis's repertoire. His Walkin' Dog Blues is a tour de force in a blues in C. All fourteen verses are transcribed here, and we study how this arrangement develops. Buck Rag is a fascinating rag played in the key of C. Single-string runs, counterpoint lines, rhythmic variations and syncopated bass patterns are featured.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is real fun. I find the style of Rev. Gary Davis very intriguing. It takes a lot of time to master it, but this book has very accurate instructions. The CDs teach you step by step the songs that are listed, and the tablatures are very easy to read. The CDs also contain other songs of Gary Davis that are not in the list and are not taught, which are real rarities. A strange, 3/4 version, of "Candyman" and other songs you won't find on any commercial CD.

Be aware that these are *arrangements* by the author rather than transcriptions. Though parts of the arrangements are what appears on the accompanying CD, they veer off into alterations that some may find to be odd musical choices. Why not stick with what's on the CD? It's not a matter of difficulty and it would make it more like the "Blues Guitar of Rev. Gary Davis" as the title implies. Another curiosity is the use of a seven lined TAB system to represent six strings (the strings being the spaces rather than the lines as in traditional TAB). It is hard to read for anyone who is used to reading standard TAB. I just read the musical notation and skip the TAB. An OK book, but if you want to accurately re-create the playing of Rev. G. Davis, you're going to need to spend time listening to the CD and making notations in the book --many of them.

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