

## INTRODUCTION

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#### Being your own band

*The Complete Fingerstyle Guitar Book* is divided into three Sections. It is *complete* in the sense that there is something for everyone: beginners, intermediate players, and professionals. The sections are related, but not strictly sequential. Both standard notation and guitar tablature are used throughout.

If you are not yet a fingerstyle player, welcome to the club. This is the place to learn. Not only will you have a whole new realm of musical possibilities, you will have the experience of plucking the strings directly instead of through the intermediary of a pick. With fingerstyle guitar it is possible to accompany oneself by playing melody, chords and bass simultaneously.

### SECTION ONE

#### Beginning fingerstyle guitar

If you are just beginning to play, Part 1 of Section One is for you. You don't have to know anything about guitar other than the side of the guitar with strings on it should *not* be resting against your chest. Having a teacher who plays fingerstyle helps too.

In this section you will learn how to hold the guitar, use the proper hand and finger positions, and play both open strings and fretted notes. Learning material is set in the context of blues and jazz. By the end of this section you will have played several blues tunes using your fingers to self-accompany.

### SECTION TWO

#### Creating fingerstyle jazz guitar solos

If you have been playing fingerstyle but had erratic results with trying to arrange solos for yourself, start with this section. The underlying techniques of arranging are presented in workbook-like exercises. After laying basic groundwork you will play completely self-arranged self-accompanied solos. Topics include preparing a fingerstyle jazz solo, working from chord symbols, using a variety of bass accompanying devices, writing notation, using major and minor thirds, accompanying with arpeggios, harmonizing a melody with thirds, tenths, and sixths. All material in this section is placed below the sixth fret.

### SECTION THREE

#### Professional fingerstyle jazz guitar

Earl Klugh, Ralph Towner, Howard Alden, Tuck Andress, Luiz Bonfá, Ron Eschete, John and Bucky Pizzarelli, Charlie Byrd, George Van Eps, Fred Fried, Ted Greene, Howard Morgen, Joe Pass, Bill Harris, Lenny Breau and many others all play(ed) wonderful fingerstyle jazz guitar. If you want to join their ranks, this is where you, an advanced player can learn. Topics cover jazz harmonic background, self accompanying, accompanying others, expressive devices of jazz, the cycle of fifths, introductions, endings, turnarounds, tags, modulations, and several full length pieces in the final Section, *Fun Jazz*.