

I wrote this book not just as a collection of my songs and solos, but as an educational tool for anyone looking to improve their reading and understanding of song form, improvisation, composition and the many other elements of being a solo artist.

I've included every composition from **Mystery to Me, Live at The 55 Bar, The Space In Between, Theatre By The Sea, Motion Picture and American Elm**, as well as select solos from each of those albums. The intended purpose of this book is to act as a songbook and reference guide for my career as a solo artist, chronicling the past decade of recordings as accurately as possible.

Transcribing and notating the book has been one of the biggest musical challenges of my career and I estimate having spent close to 200 hours working on it, going over minute details of phrasing during the process of writing all this information down. I was traveling through-

out the entire process which posed quite a logistical obstacle when it came to getting a good work flow for the transcription process. I'm proud to say I didn't use any technology to slow down passages of soloing to make it easier to transcribe. It was done "old-school", almost the way I used to transcribe other artists' solos when I was a kid, although the boom box with the worn-out Play and Rewind buttons has been replaced by a laptop.

So over a two-month period, as we weaved in and out of Spain, Italy, France, the UK and Germany, "Songs and Solos" started to come to life. I had moments of near insanity where I couldn't believe I'd committed to such a project and then others where I swore I would never play a solo longer than 30 seconds ever again... But the feeling of accomplishment when it was all finished is something unlike anything I've ever felt. And the best part for me is that I now get to share it with you.

Janek

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