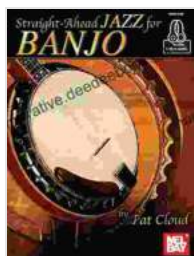


Straight Ahead Jazz For Banjo by Mick Shea: A Comprehensive Guide to Bebop and Swing

Mick Shea's "Straight Ahead Jazz for Banjo" (1991) is widely regarded as one of the most influential instructional books in the world of jazz banjo. This seminal work has had a profound impact on the banjo community, helping to popularize jazz banjo playing and establishing Shea as a leading figure in the field. In this comprehensive article, we will analyze the book's innovative pedagogical approach and explore its significant contributions to the art of jazz banjo.



Straight-Ahead Jazz for Banjo by Mick O'Shea

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 36494 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 108 pages



The Pedagogical Approach of "Straight Ahead Jazz for Banjo"

One of the key strengths of "Straight Ahead Jazz for Banjo" is its thorough and systematic approach to teaching jazz improvisation. The book is divided into three main sections:

* **Part 1:** This section covers the fundamentals of jazz theory, including scales, chords, and chord progressions. Shea presents these concepts in a clear and accessible manner, making them easy to understand for both beginner and advanced players alike. * **Part 2:** This section focuses on the

development of melodic improvisation skills. Shea introduces a variety of techniques, such as scalar runs, arpeggios, and motivic development, to help players create their own unique solos. * **Part 3:** This section explores the art of chord melody playing, which involves simultaneously providing both the melody and the accompanying chords on the banjo. Shea provides detailed instruction on how to construct chord melody arrangements and how to play them in a jazz context.

Throughout the book, Shea emphasizes the importance of listening to and transcribing jazz solos. He encourages students to study the work of great jazz banjoists, such as Earl Scruggs, Bill Keith, and Béla Fleck, in order to develop their own improvisational vocabulary.

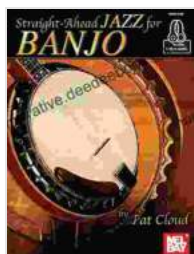
The Impact of "Straight Ahead Jazz for Banjo"

The publication of "Straight Ahead Jazz for Banjo" had a transformative effect on the banjo world. Before the release of the book, jazz banjo playing was a relatively niche genre, practiced by a small number of musicians. However, Shea's book opened up the world of jazz banjo to a wider audience, inspiring a new generation of players to embrace the genre.

The book's influence is evident in the proliferation of jazz banjo festivals and workshops that have emerged in recent years. It has also led to the development of new educational programs and online resources dedicated to the study of jazz banjo playing.

Mick Shea's "Straight Ahead Jazz for Banjo" is an essential resource for any banjo player who is serious about learning jazz improvisation. The book's comprehensive pedagogical approach, systematic organization, and emphasis on practical application make it an invaluable tool for both

beginners and experienced players alike. Through its innovative approach, "Straight Ahead Jazz for Banjo" has played a pivotal role in the development of jazz banjo playing and continues to inspire and educate players around the world.



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