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EVERGREEN GUITAR LESSONS

Old Joe Clark

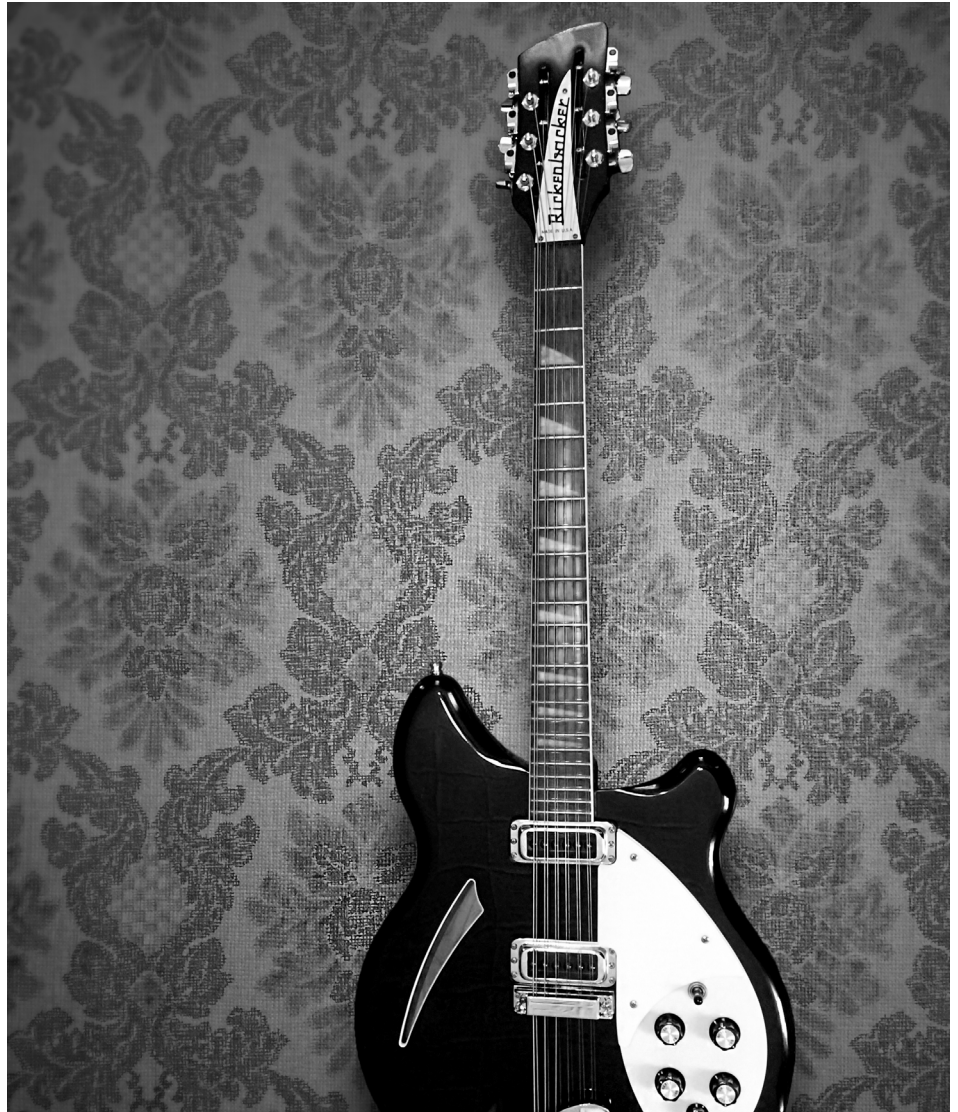
Learn the main melody of this old folk song about a mountaineer from mid 1800's.

Mixolydian Mode

Why use mixolydian mode while crafting your next fine melody?

Old Joe Clark: Video Tutorials

Watch as Jason Carey delivers a video series talking about the tools needed to play an American favorite.



Sign Up for lessons today: (207) 458-8197

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Email questions to: info@jasonjcarey.com

PLAY GUITAR



Mixolydian Mode

A "mode" refers to a matrix of tones that are typically arranged from lowest to highest. There are several modes. Each mode has a tone that functions as its central tone.

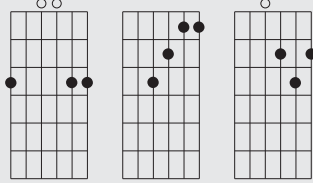
Mixolydian mode means that the central tone is based on the fifth note of its parent major scale.

For example: if the parent major scale is C Major, a collection of [C,D,E,F,G,A,B], the fifth note in that matrix is known as G and therefore would be considered the central tone for G Mixolydian Mode.

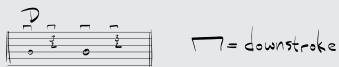
Chords & Strumming

The chord diagrams below are intended for use in Old Joe Clark.

Strum Pattern:



G F D



▮ = downstroke

Consider your practice tempo

A good steady tempo is an easy enough thing to overlook.

While practicing, remember to start with a metronome that is dialed in at a tempo that is slow enough for you to easily play every note in full detail. Remember not to rush. As you get comfortable with your work at the current tempo, you may bump up the speed by one or two clicks at a time and master each new tempo. Repeat this process until your piece of music is up to speed and easily playable.

When approaching a new piece of music, wait until you are somewhat comfortable with it before incorporating the metronome into your playing.

Muscle memory

When first approaching a task we would like to commit to muscle memory, we are actually consolidating a motor task into memory through the act of repetition.

As we repeat musical passages it is important to play them slowly and accurately so they are able to be consolidated into memory without flaw. This simple investment of patience and perseverance minimizes the chances that we will need to go back and re-learn a flawed passage.

OLD JOE CLARK

Old Joe Clark is an American folk song and a large part of our musical heritage.

The song has been played for many decades and continues to be fun and easy to approach which lends itself well to your own personal interpretation. The melody supplied below is the basic framework of the song and should be memorized as an AABB song form.



A couple things to remember as we practice through Old Joe Clark

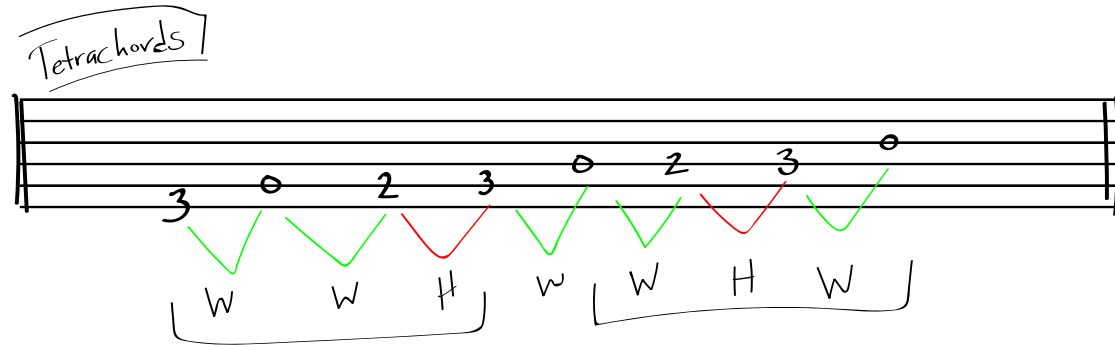
- Begin the practice session with a warm up of at least 5 minutes. Warm up routines should include: stretching, the 1 2 3 4 exercise, more stretching and good breathing cycles.
- Take your time and don't feel rushed. You deserve it. This will continue to pay dividends in the years to come.
- It is recommended to practice for 15 minutes then take a short break for some more stretching.
- If you see a sasquatch, take a break from practice and run. Actually, it is a good idea to get up and move around at regular intervals if you plan on practicing for more than an hour at a time. When you come back to your practice, you will be even more ready to learn.
- Even though things may seem difficult at first, carry on because things always get better. Every repetition helps to program our muscle tissue. That muscle tissue will eventually "remember" what to do!
- Practice evenly and without disruption. Try and maintain a well-lighted place that is set up for learning. Use nice furniture too (if it is available to you).

Jason Carey writes for EverGreen Guitar Lessons "on the line". He is an accomplished guitarist and songwriter living in Belgrade, Maine with his family. In 2009, Jason founded a music school in Augusta, the capital city of Maine. He directed this program for 2 years and helped a dozen or so music educators get the program started. Although Jason is now retired from that, the program still serves as the musical hub for dozens of communities in central Maine. You can buy Jason J Carey's album reBirth on iTunes, Google Play, and many other favorite musical outlets on the web.

G MIXOLYDIAN MODE

The G Mixolydian Mode below is supplied as supplemental practice material. This mode was employed as the melodic foundation for Old Joe Clark on the previous page. Mixolydian's flatted seventh scale degree gives the scale a dominant and powerful sound.

G Mixolydian Mode (1 2 3 4 5 6 b7)



Major Scale Template (Balanced)

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | W | H | W | W | W | H |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

$$\frac{W \quad W \quad H}{W \quad W \quad H} = \text{Balanced}$$

Mixolydian Mode

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | W | H | W | W | H | W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

$$\frac{W \quad W \quad H}{W \quad H \quad W} = \text{Not Balanced}$$

Watch — Old Joe Clark video by Jason J Carey



Old Joe Clark Video Lesson series by Jason J Carey includes key concepts and techniques ranging from beginner to advancing. The most important component of a song is the melody and therefore should be the first point of study.

Melody will be the guiding light. As new songs are added to your collection or repertoire, a deep and thorough understanding of melody will assist while using these song frameworks as vehicles for improvisational exploration.

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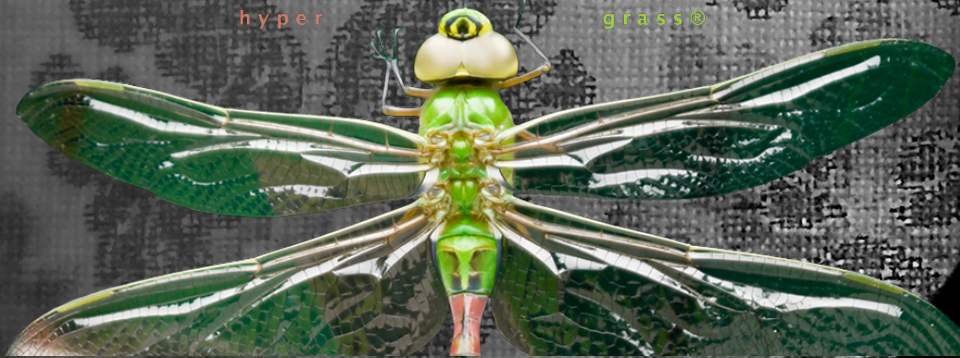
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"Playing the guitar puts us in touch with the important things that can be easily overlooked in our busy lifestyles.

Regular practice of your craft will yield the best and most positive results."

-Jason Carey



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