



Straight-ahead Jazz for Banjo Book/Cd Set (Mel Bay Presents)

By Patrick Cloud



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Straight-ahead Jazz for Banjo Book/Cd Set (Mel Bay Presents) By Patrick Cloud

Starting with basic intervals, "Straight-Ahead Jazz for Banjo" shows the structure of all basic chord types and qualities and matches these to the scales that generate them. The book's basic concept model is to treat the five-string banjo's potential in an inclusive technical context so that the student can make use of open and fifth strings to create a smooth legato style. Each of the 90+ exercises are recorded with a metronome and progress to 16 additional examples of original jazz phrases in a variety of keys. Topics include functional major and minor key harmony, diminished and augmented scales and how they are used, and the integration of altered scale substitutes in the art of jazz improvisation. It stresses listening and learning in a logical structured manner with an example of a daily practice plan. The unique emphasis of the book is on the fingerings which make the instrument work for you technically and thus open up added possibilities for the development of a student's personal style. This long-awaited volume will surely bring new focus and perspective to any banjo style and will be a classic reference for many new generations of banjoists. Audio CD included.



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Editorial Review

About the Author

Pat Cloud was born in Los Angeles in 1950 and discovered the five-string banjo by chance at age fourteen when his mother purchased a used banjo at a swap meet as a wall decoration. By age sixteen, he was playing professionally and toured with the USO Bob Hope Oriental Command tours of 1967 and 1970. In the early 1970s, his television appearances included the Tonight Show, Merv Griffin, and PBS. He has been a Los Angeles studio musician for 25 years. In 1972, he began jazz studies with former Nat King Cole guitarist Horace Hatchett and then with William Thaisner (co-author of the Joe Pass guitar books). He started to adapt a fluid jazz vocabulary to five-string banjo utilizing melodic technique pioneered by such banjoists as Carrol Best, Bobby Thompson and Bill Keith. In 1974, he joined briefly with mandolinist Jimmy Gaudreau and country music great Keith Whitley forming the "New Tradition" band playing bluegrass throughout the southeast. Between 1976 and 1980, Cloud continued jazz studies with jazz vibraphone player Dave Pike and continued in the Los Angeles studio circuit along with associations with the Walt Disney Corporation and the UCLA jazz workshop. In 1983, he recorded the album "Higher Power" with Barry Solomon and Bob Applebaum on the Flying Fish label and was nominated that same year in the best "new instrument" category by Downbeat Magazine. In 1989 Cloud was awarded "Banjo Player of the Year" by the California Country Music Association. In 1992, he participated in the Tennessee Banjo Institute with other banjo notables including John Hartford, Douglas Dillard, Carl Jackson, Grandpa Jones, Bill Keith, Taj Mahal, Mike Seeger, Ralph Stanley, Tony Trishka, Doc Watson, and legendary New Orleans banjoist Danny Baker. Pat Cloud makes his home in the Eastern Sierras in central California.

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