

Stretchin The Blues Brad Benefield

In the realm of guitar music, few artists possess the dexterity and emotional depth of Brad Benefield. As a master of the blues, Benefield has dedicated his life to honing his craft, creating an inimitable style that pushes the boundaries of the genre. This article delves into the intricacies of Benefield's technique, examining the unique elements that make his playing so captivating.

Stretching the Boundaries

Brad Benefield's guitar prowess lies in his ability to "stretch" the blues, expanding its traditional framework with unconventional techniques and a limitless imagination. He effortlessly blends elements of jazz, rock, and classical music, resulting in a sound that transcends categorization. Benefield's virtuosic solos are characterized by their soaring runs, intricate chord progressions, and a deep understanding of harmony.

Alternate Tunings and Extended Range

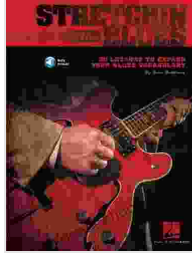
One of Benefield's signature techniques involves the use of alternate guitar tunings. By experimenting with different string configurations, he opens up new tonal possibilities, creating soundscapes that are both familiar and utterly unique. His most famous tuning, dubbed the "Benefield Tuning," consists of D-A-E-G-B-E, providing him with extended range and allowing for complex and unconventional voicings.

Stretchin' the Blues by Brad Benefield

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
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Print length : 64 pages



Fretboard Mastery

Benefield's fretboard command is truly astonishing. His fingers dance across the strings with effortless precision, navigating complex chordal structures and lightning-fast runs with ease. His playing is characterized by a meticulous attention to detail, where every note is carefully chosen to create a seamless and emotive narrative.

Harmonic Exploration

Benefield's harmonic vocabulary is equally impressive. He possesses a deep understanding of music theory, which he employs to create captivating chord progressions and melodies. His solos are often built around extended chords, diminished scales, and other advanced techniques, lending them a sophisticated and modern edge.

Rhythmic Complexity

Beyond his harmonic and melodic prowess, Benefield is also a rhythmic virtuoso. His playing is characterized by intricate syncopations, unexpected accents, and a deep understanding of time and groove. He seamlessly blends blues, jazz, and rock rhythms, creating a dynamic and engaging sound that keeps listeners on the edge of their seats.

Emotional Depth

However, technical mastery alone does not account for the captivating nature of Benefield's playing. His true strength lies in his ability to convey deep emotions through his music. His solos are often filled with longing, heartbreak, and triumph, revealing a soul that is deeply connected to the human experience.

Signature Sound and Gear

Benefield's signature sound is the result of a combination of factors, including his unique playing style, his custom-built guitars, and his discerning choice of amplifiers and pedals. His guitars, crafted by master luthier Brian Moore, feature extended range and are equipped with high-quality electronics for precise tone shaping. Benefield's amplifier setup consists of boutique amps from Two-Rock and Fuchs, which provide him with a warm, dynamic, and responsive sound.

Legacy and Inspiration

Brad Benefield's influence on the guitar world is undeniable. His innovative approach to the blues has inspired countless musicians and expanded the boundaries of the genre. He has been featured in numerous publications, including *Guitar Player* magazine, and has performed on stages around the globe, earning critical acclaim for his exceptional talent.

Brad Benefield is a true guitar visionary, a master of stretching the blues to its limits and beyond. His playing combines technical virtuosity with emotional depth, creating a unique and captivating sound that transcends genre boundaries. As one of the leading lights in contemporary guitar

music, Benefield continues to inspire and enthrall audiences with his extraordinary musical gifts.



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