

Accompaniment, Groove & Improvisation

by Assistant Professor Rasmus Birk



- **Background:** As a guitarist, teacher and composer, I have always been fascinated by different genres and particularly by the special characteristics that define each genre.
- **This fascination** has been a driving force in my efforts to develop a comprehensive interactive teaching material for guitarists.
- **Contents:** Eight tunes in different genres, documented in performance & tutorial videos, sheets (standard musical notation and TABs) and audio stems.
- **The audio and video** material provides a thorough introduction to a large number of technical and musical aspects of the instrument's role in different genres.
- **The tutorial videos** provide insight into many aspects of technique, sound, aesthetics etc. with a special focus on the guitar parts and on an educational outcome.
- **Target group:** The material is suitable both for self-study and as material for guitar teachers who are looking for new, challenging material for their intermediate to advanced level students.
- **Method:** Knowledge of the genre-specific role of the instrument is conveyed through compositions and improvisations created for the project.
- **Outcome:** Interactive educational material for guitarists and for artistic practice at international level.
- **Collaborators:** The Saint Louis College of Music, Rome, strings from Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, teachers and students from RAMA.
- **The eight tunes** and their corresponding genre:

- [L.A. Ballad: When I Think Of You](#)
- [Shredding Fusion: House Of Math](#)
- [Fast Country: Country Guitar Exercise #1](#)
- [Rhythm Change: Guitars For Gershwin](#)
- [Smooth Jazz: B On Manhattan](#)
- [Samba: Summer Samba](#)
- [Rock: The Rock](#)
- [Jazz-Blues: Razzblues](#)

All material can be freely accessed from Rasmus Birk's website:

<https://www.rasmusbirk.com/foku/>

Scan QR Code below!

Funky Rock/Fusion
- Lead guitar in standard notation and TAB
- 120 bpm
- Electric, distorted guitar tone
- Bridge/Guitar Solo (optional)

"House of math"
Composed & arranged by Rasmus Birk

A1
- Clean Jazz tone
- Use neck pickup

A2
- Use solo on A-B-A-B after repeated melody, then C7

To Coda

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String Jazz
- Lead guitar in standard notation and TAB
- Swing, 4=120

Guitars For Gershwin
- Based on a "Rhythm Change"

Composed & Arranged by Rasmus Birk 2020

A1
- Clean Jazz tone
- Use neck pickup

A2
- Use solo on A-B-A-B after repeated melody, then C7

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Funky Pop/Smooth Jazz, #104
- Lead guitar in standard notation and TAB

"B On Manhattan"
Composed & arranged by Rasmus Birk

Intro
- Clean electric or compressor
- position 4 (bridge/neck pickup)
- position 1 (neck pickup)

A1-2
- A1: A2-B-A3 FORD - let it Meady
- A2: get solo over A-B-A, then C as written, (gtr melody-B, A3 to Coda-Intro)

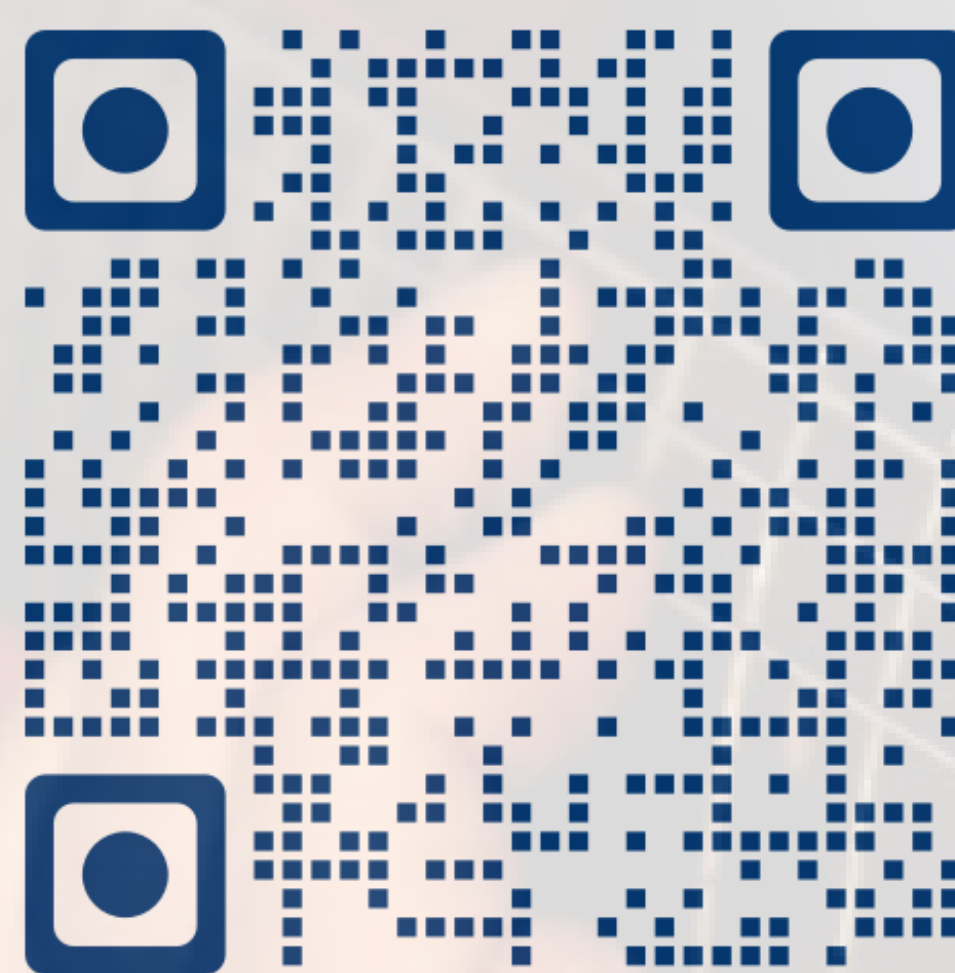
B
- position 4 (bridge/neck pickup)

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Example sheets



Rasmus Birk



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