



Jazz Guitar Intros

By Mark Stefani www.visionmusic.com

The challenge: Come up with an interesting rubato jazz guitar intro for Errol Garner's classic ballad "Misty" (in Eb). For the recording project I chose a standard I-VI-II-V turnaround formula to work with.

The solution: As you can see I used a combination of traditional jazz chords with single line fills (ala Joe Pass). Note the use of the C7(b9) (E diminished) in bar two, and the Bb13 to Bb7(#5) in bar 4.

Notes: The term rubato means to play in free time, purposely avoiding the beat. It remains one of the most soulful expressive ways for a singer to sing, or in this case for a guitarist to provide accompaniment or play solo chord melody. Though a flatpick may be used, fingerstyle is highly recommended.

First system of musical notation showing four measures of chords and single line fills:

- Measure 1: $E^b\text{maj}^7$ (I)
- Measure 2: C^7 (VI)
- Measure 3: Fm^7 (II)
- Measure 4: B^b7 (V)

Second system of musical notation showing four measures of chords and single line fills:

- Measure 1: $E^b\text{maj}^7$
- Measure 2: $C^7(b^9)$
- Measure 3: B^b7 (V)
- Measure 4: B^b7 (V)

1-measure rest, Fm7, (Fill), H, H, H, H, 3, 1-measure rest, Bb13, Bb+7, (Pick up), 1-measure rest, 1-measure rest, 1-measure rest, 1-measure rest.

About the author



Mark Stefani is a jazz guitarist and educator in Portland Oregon. He has written many books in the guitar educational field. His talent as a music coach has been felt by top professionals the world over. In 1987, his career was spotlighted in Guitar Player Magazine, where he was described as possessing a "versatile style on both electric and acoustic guitars" in addition to having "a master's touch."

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