Flatpicking Guitar Magazine

Monthly Lesson - August 2020

Will You Miss Me

Arranged by George Shuffler

This month we are offering a discount on all of our instructional DVDs and one of the DVDs that we produced years ago, titled "Clinch Mountain Guitar," featured the crosspicking style of flatpicking that was featured by many of the guitar players who performed with Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys over the years. The person responsible for first introducing that sound to the Stanley's music was George Shuffler. On the video we feature a short segment with George talking about how he created this style and then he demonstrates it using the tune "Will You Miss Me."

The instructor on the remainder of the video is James Alan Shelton. At the time we recorded the video James was the current guitar player with Ralph Stanley. Sadly, both George and James are no longer with us, both having passed in 2014.

The instructional portion of the video begins with James Alan Shelton demonstrating the crosspicking roll and providing several exercises which will serve to train your right hand to gain skill with the crosspicking technique. James then teaches a "turnaround" to "Rank Stranger" which utilizes the crosspicking technique to "fill in the gaps" between vocal lines. He then shows how to take the simple melody line of a song, "Uncloudy Day," and incorporate the crosspicking technique between the melody notes. Next, James teaches a crosspicking break to "Bury Me Beneath the Weeping Willow" and follows that tune by demonstrating how to transform a Carter style guitar solo into a crosspicking solo using the song "Wildwood Flower" as an example. The next section of the video features James teaching two of his original flatpicking tunes "Road to Coeburn" and "Tom's Creek."

In this month's lesson we are providing the standard notation and tablature for George Shuffler's solo on "Will You Miss Me" as it is played on the video. We have also provided an audio recording of that solo (click on "Download mp3"). Additionally, you can watch George play this tune on our You Tube channel (search you Tube using "George Shuffler Crosspicking"). If you'd like to learn more about the "Clinch Mountain Guitar" instructional DVD, go to this URL: https://www.flatpick.com/product_p/1971.htm

