

TRUEFIRE AND ACOUSTIC GUITAR WORKSHOP
PRESENT TIM SPARKS'

FINGERSTYLE

ROOTS, RAGS & BLUES



Tim Sparks presents Willie Brown's "Mississippi Blues"

A fingerstyle masterclass



AcousticGuitarWorkshop.com

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About The Program

The Virtuoso acoustic wizard and fingerstyle master, Tim Sparks presents Fingerstyle Roots, Rags & Blues, an insightful exploration of Early Americana Roots music and intensive fingerstyle study program for intermediate and advanced students.

Fingerstyle Roots, Rags & Blues covers Delta Blues, Country Gospel, New Orleans, Ragtime, Early Jazz and the most amazing version of "The Mississippi Blues" that we've ever seen performed or heard here at TrueFire.

The tunes in this collection evoke a time when American Roots music crystallized and was transformed by the effects of recordings and radio. Some of these selections were written for guitar, others are adaptations from piano and jazz band arrangements.

A long list of Roots Music fingerstyle guitarists particularly influenced the material covered in Fingerstyle Roots, Rags & Blues; Duck Baker, Pat Donohue, Woody Mann, Steve James, Eric Lugosch, Eric Schonberg, Ernie Hawkins, Dakota Dave Hull, Phil Heywood, Guy van Duser, Lasse Johansson, Andy Ellis and Teja Gerken.

Video breakdown

Tim Sparks breaks down the tune in bite-size chunks in order to make it digestible for the student.

Each video segment will have its own corresponding tab, so the student won't have to go back to the full version to figure out what's going on.

To give you an idea, here is a typical "Mississippi Blues" tuition sequence. By the way, this model is followed for all the six tunes on Fingerstyle Roots Rags & Blues.

For full details of this video instruction package visit this Truefire page:

<http://truefire.com/rootsrags/rootsrags.html>



VIDEO DOWNLOAD:
[Quicktime](#) | [WMV](#)

Tim Sparks presents Willie Brown's "Mississippi Blues"

When Alan Lomax recorded Willie Brown's Mississippi Blues in 1942 for the Library of Congress, he captured one of the most enduring and inventive examples of Fingerstyle Guitar counterpoint you'll ever hear. Even though Willie Brown only recorded a handful of tunes, his Mississippi Blues is one of the all-time great pieces of Country Blues Guitar, (or any style of Guitar for that matter).

Sparks' variations on Willie Brown's motifs create a hard-driving, Boogie-Woogie shuffle that both supercharges and pays tribute to the original. He borrows riffs from the likes of Scrapper Blackwell and Brownie McGhee to create an arrangement full of great licks and ideas you can have a lot of fun with!

On the next 8 pages, you'll find "Mississippi Blues" tabbed out in standard notation and tablature. Please note on the CD ROM video instruction package, available [exclusively from truefire.com](http://truefire.com), tab will also be available as Powertab. This is midi tab you can speed up, slow down and listen to.

Learning this fabulous arrangement

At first glance the tablature may seem a little daunting, but really it's not that hard and any reasonable intermediate standard guitar player should be able to get to handle it with a little application. If you get the DVD ROM video instruction package ([Fingerstyle Roots Rags & Blues](#)), you'll find it easy because Tim Sparks breaks it all down in minute and intricate detail using a split screen video technique, whereby you can see the picking and fretting hand simultaneously. Of course, it's still possible with what you have here - the tablature and the mp3 for audio guidance.

Have fun with the pickin'.

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Mississippi Blues

Fast and lively

Willie Brown arranged by Tim Sparks

PO PO PO HO PO

Slide Slide upto

Last Time To Coda

HO

15

Slight bend

TAB

PO

18

TAB

21

TAB

24

Bend up PO

27

TAB 1 2 0 2 1 2 1 0 3 0 | 17 17 17 16 17 15 17 | 14 (14) 14 13

PO Bend up Bend up

30

TAB 9 8 9 9 8 9 9 8 9 | 7 7 9 9 7 7 8 9 | 0 0 9 9 7 7 9 9

33

TAB 9 8 9 9 8 9 9 8 9 | 7 7 9 9 7 9 0 | 10 10 8 9 9 0

Slide Slide

36

TAB 9 8 9 9 8 9 9 8 9 | 7 7 9 9 7 9 0 | 10 10 9 9 12 10 10 9 11 9 12 6 7 10

Slide Slide

39

Bend up & down

TAB

8	10	8	7	9	7	10	7	7	7	5	10	7	10	8	8	7	7	5	0	0	(0)	9	8	7
10	10	8	9	0	(0)	7	7	7	5	7	10	10	8	7	7	6	7	(7)	6	7	(7)	8	7	6
10	10	8	9	0	(0)	0	10	9	8	0	6	7	(7)	0	6	7	(7)	0	6	7	(7)	8	7	6

42

Bend 13 up

Bend

Slide

TAB

5	12	12	14	12	14	(14)	5	5	7	5	7	5	6	5	4	2	2	4	5	2	2	5	2	
5	13	13	13	13	13	(14)	8	8	7	5	7	5	6	5	4	3	2	2	4	5	2	2	5	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	3	4	2	2	4	5	2	

HO HO

45

Bend up

Bend up

TAB

4	2	4	2	3	4	2	2	0	1	2	2	2	(2)	2	(2)	2	3	4	2	3	4		
(0)	4	2	3	4	2	3	2	0	1	2	2	2	(2)	2	(2)	2	3	4	0	2	3	4	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PO HO HO HO

48

Slide

Slide

TAB

5	7	5	7	5	7	9	9	(9)	5	5	6	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	5	6	9	8	9	10	11	12	13
4	7	5	7	5	7	9	9	(9)	5	5	6	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	5	6	9	8	9	10	11	12	13
4	7	5	7	5	7	9	9	(9)	5	5	6	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	5	6	9	8	9	10	11	12	13

HO PO

50

TAB

14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 | 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 | 9 9 7 7 5 5 3 3

0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0

53

TAB

9 9 7 7 5 5 3 3 | 4 0 4 0 3 0 0 | 5 6 6 5 4 2 1 2 1 0 3

0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0

PO PO HO PO PO PO

Slide Bend C up

56

TAB

Slide upto 14

14 14 13 12 11 12 12 | 15 15 15 15 15 15 15

0 14 13 12 11 11 11 | 14 14 14 14 14 14 14

0 0 | 0 0 15 14 14 12 12 14 12

PO

59

TAB

15 15 15 15 15 15 15 | 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 | 15 15 15 15 15 15 15

14 14 14 14 14 14 14 | 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 | 14 14 14 14 14 14 14

0 0 15 14 14 12 12 14 12 | 0 0 15 14 14 12 12 14 12 | 0 0 15 14 14 12 12 13 14

84

Bend up

T	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0												
A													8	5	8	5	8	7	5	7	5	6	5	13	12	(12)	
B	2												0											13	12	(11)	(12)

PO PO HO

See an example of Tim Sparks' video instruction technique for 'Mississippi Blues' on the next page...

Tim Sparks - Fingerstyle Magician



Tim Sparks has been redefining the acoustic guitar repertoire since he won the US National Fingerstyle Championship in 1993 with a groundbreaking arrangement of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. Since then, Sparks has continued to surprise, challenge, and thrill audiences with his diverse repertoire and stunning technique. Equally at home within the Country Blues, Ragtime, Jazz or World Music genres, Sparks' extraordinary ability to adapt virtually any music to the solo guitar has earned him an international reputation as one of the

most innovative guitarists working today.

Sparks discography includes The Nutcracker Suite, One String Leads to Another and Guitar Bazaar on Peter Finger's Acoustic Music Records. He has also recorded four projects for John Zorn's Tzadik label, Neshamah, Tanz, At the Rebbe's Table and Masada Guitars, (with Bill Frisell and Marc Ribot).

In addition to playing concerts in Europe, Asia and North America, Sparks is a part-time faculty member of the University of Minnesota. Recent appearances include touring with Dolly Parton and as a featured guest on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion

Press Quotes

Guitar Player Magazine - "an important recording from a gifted composer, arranger and performer".

Berlin Morning Post - "Sparks shows his tremendous versatility moving between jazz and the classics."

Dirty Linen Magazine - "A major contribution to the world of guitar transcriptions...Sparks is an extraordinary guitarist"

Guitar Player Magazine - "Fresh, exotic, and totally cool."

Acoustic Guitar Magazine - "Sparks' musical goulash is spiced with Celtic, blues, and jazz flavors for a truly unique work. The effect is exotic, rich, and sensuous."

"You can hear Tim Sparks think. He plays by choice not habit: ideas not licks. I've heard him do this on guitars so badly intonated, they wouldn't make a good ashtray; the same guitars - I remember a piece called Blues on Bartok Street - are guitars in Tim's hands. Beautiful. I'm Tim Sparks' biggest fan. His stuff is very difficult to play but it doesn't sound difficult. I think that's real musicianship. He's really one of the best musicians I know." - Leo Kottke

www.timsparks.com



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