

Flatpicking Guitar Magazine E-News Free Lesson

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Under the Double Eagle

arranged by Mickey Abraham

Hello and welcome once again to FGM's free lesson portion of our monthly newsletter. This month I have arranged a classic flatpicking standard that seems to have dropped out of the top ten list. "Under the Double Eagle" is a great song that is worth bringing back to the flatpicking mainstream. This song has always enjoyed a cult following, and to many, it is the ultimate guitar show piece. Even if you already play this tune, you might still find some new and interesting flatpicking ideas in this arrangement.

Most folks who play this tune on the guitar use a Carter style chord melody technique. I like to do this too, but I find that chord melody strums are often hard to interpret in music notation. For this reason, I chose to separate the two parts into a more standard duet approach. For those that have had trouble with other arrangements of this tune in the past, I think you will find my melody very playable!

This free lesson includes two breaks for the song. First, is what I believe to be the best "easy" version of "Under the Double Eagle" that you will ever see. This is followed by a more intermediate/advanced improvised break over the chord changes.

The form of this song is interesting. The "A" section is in the key of C and only utilizes two chords -- C (chord I) and G (chord V). Then, for the "B" section, the song appears to go to the IV of C -- We are, in fact going to F, but when we get there, we are now in the key of F! The whole "B" section goes through changes in the key of F using the I (F), the IV (Bb), and the V (C). The section is tagged with a "Beaumont Rag" style turnaround in F starting on the IV (Bb, Bdim, F, D, Gm, C7, F). When the big rag turnaround is over, we play three chromatic major chords (F, F#, and G), which brings us to the V chord of C, bringing us smoothly back to the "A" section in style! Listen to the lesson mp3 to hear how this transition works.

When learning the solo, I suggest only taking what you like and trying to combine those ideas into ideas that you may already know. First, I'd like to point out the little C major 7th arpeggio in the second A part. This phrase comes right after a descending chromatic run and, to me, adds some tasty flavor to the solo. This may be the kind of idea that you can "steal" from this lesson and insert it into another song at another time. Next, take a look at the cool two string "cross picking" in the B section solo. This syncopated pattern implies the melody with style -- the open G string works great against a C chord and makes the climbing run fun to play and interesting to hear.

I hope you enjoy working on my arrangement of this awesome tune. Remember to practice slow and with rock solid timing. Try to stay relaxed and free of tension when you play guitar. If you have any questions or comments on this e-lesson, past e-lessons, or any great ideas for future lessons that you would like to see here, just drop me an email at michabraham@comcast.net

Under The Double Eagle

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1 **C**

T
A
B

6 **G** **C**

3 1 0 | 3 3 5 | 1 | 0 2 0 | 1 0 1

11 **G**

0 1 0 | 3 5 3 | 0 1 2 | 3 1 0 | 3 3 5

16 **C** **C7** **F**

1 1 0 | 3 0 1 2 | 3 1 3 | 1 0 2 1 | 3 0 2 1

21 **C**

3 0 2 1 | 3 1 3 | 1 2 1 | 0 0 2 0 | 3

Under The Double Eagle (con't)

26 C7

3 1 3 | 1 | 0 2 0 | 3 | 0 2 0 | 3 | 0 2 0 | 3 2 0

31 F

3 1 | 0 2 1 2 0 | 3 2 1 | 3 1 3 | 1 0 2 1

36 F7 Bb

3 0 2 1 | 3 0 2 1 | 3 2 | 1 4 | 3 3 1

41 Bdim F D7

3 | 1 3 3 1 | 0 3 | 1 2 1 | 3 1 2

46 Gm C7 F F# G C

0 3 | 2 2 | 2 3 4 | 4 0 2 0 | 1 0 1

Under The Double Eagle (con't)

76 **C7**

6 8 0 0 6 0 0 8 0 8 10 0 0 8 0 0 10 0 11 0 0 0 10 0 0 0 8 0 0 0 5 0 0 0

80 **F**

6 5 6 5 7 5 8 7 7 1 2 3 3 2 1 2 1 2 3 1 3 2 1 2 3

84 **F7**

3 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 2 1 2 3 1 3 2 1 2 3 1 3 2 1 3 4 3 1 2

88 **Bb** **Bdim** **F**

3 1 3 4 1 4 3 3 1 1 1 0 3 1 2 1

93 **D7** **Gm** **C7** **F**

3 1 2 0 3 2 2 2 3