

3

MACROCOSMOS

GUITAR

50
Sequential
Etudes for
Plectrum
Guitar

ROGER PELL

Overview of Book 3

Book 3 fills a conspicuous gap in the guitar repertoire; reading material specifically designed for plectrum guitar.

What is the most efficient way to learn to read and interpret musical notation for guitarists who use a plectrum or pick ? To find a proven method of instruction whose sequential format is graded from simple open string melodies to complex harmonic voicings.

To nurture reading and to interpret notation at sight the musician needs to focus on reading a great variety of music on a regular basis. Accordingly these etudes will advance kinetic technique.

Miniature etudes are ideal to fulfill an objective here when designed to transition from exercise into a musical form. By being short in duration each etude requires only a short time to read. By avoiding unnecessary reliance upon memory allows the repetition of pieces to be reduced.

Book 3 of *Macrocosmos for Guitar* accommodates all these requirements through a graded format of 50 etudes that embraces just the first five frets. The material is subsequently divided into four categories.

1. Etudes that use only open strings, i.e. techniques for the right hand only.
2. Etudes using two examples from each diatonic key.
3. Etudes that advance chromaticism and rhythmic displacement.
4. Etudes that evolve thematic character via intervallic content.

This particular approach has proven to be highly effective in its aspirations, with book 3 a reliable resource for all guitarists for more than 20 years.

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3 Strings 1234
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5 #’s on strings 1 2
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1.

R.L.Pell.

1. 2.
mm 88.

Musical score for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, marked mm 88. The score consists of four staves. The first staff has a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.) marked with circled numbers. The piece starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and features various articulations like accents and slurs. The dynamics fluctuate between *mp* and mezzo-forte (*mf*). The second staff includes a 2/4 time signature change. The piece concludes with a "Fine." marking.

Etude 18

B Major
mm100

RPell

mp (543) Simi (532) (5321)

4

7

10

13

16

Rit.....

* In bar the omitted
plectrum strokes are all V

No 39

Indirect
Parallelism
mm 80

R Pell

mf

Simi

Simi

Simi

Simi

Rit... 12fret har...