

THE ART OF VIRTUOSITY:

For guitar



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INTRO

This book is different from other technique books in one respect.

You won't find many musical examples or technical exercises here. The emphasis is on concepts.

I've always believed in the power of concepts, simple concepts that can change your playing in a fundamental way.

Take for instance, fluidity.

For years, I had difficulty negotiating the sudden rapid descending run in the middle of Villa Lobos Etude #1.

Despite months of practice, the run proved elusive.

And then one day, I found that by anticipating the notes, I was able to move quickly and fluidly through the fast changing shifts. Suddenly the passage became easy.

One simple concept and it changed my playing overnight.

That's the power of concepts.

This book is a compendium of everything I have learned in forty years of playing the guitar. I have held nothing back. Everything I've learned is contained within here.

But first, some disclaimers.

This book describes a specific approach to playing the classical guitar and there may be elements in that approach that may not work for you. If so, ignore them.

If you feel in conflict with any of the opinions or techniques expressed, ignore them too.

It is not my intent to convert anyone to a particular way of thinking. My purpose in writing this book is to share what I believe are key aspects of virtuoso technique on the classical guitar.

If you feel you're already satisfied with your present skills on the guitar, this book is not for you, but if you're looking for a new approach to bring you to another level, this book may offer some surprising new insights.

In an effort to be as comprehensive as possible, I've included information on basics such as seating and positioning. If you're already an advanced player, you can skip them too.

In a way, this book is the prequel to the *Art of Virtuosity* (referred to as the AOV from now on).

The techniques in this book provide the basis from where I derived the principles in that first book. You do not need the AOV to understand the techniques in this book but it helps.

Virtuosity is a journey, and there's no more exciting journey than that of discovering your innate gifts as a virtuoso guitar player.

May your playing be filled with virtuosity.