



Progressive Music And Beyond

A discussion with Ivan Bertolla

Making A Career In Music

Most musicians dream about making music their profession - but only a handful are able to do it. Why is this so? There are many factors. Even if you think you are the best composer and musician on the planet, it will not help you very much. You only need to turn on the radio to see how degenerate the record industry has become. Publishers have mountains of strong melodic songs sitting in their offices that the market doesn't want to hear. Orchestral composers these days would be lucky to sell 1000 CDs and get any airplay at all for years of work... And we all know that most of the time talented people are never heard of. Instead, we are

subjected to loud-mouthed, untalented and controversial artists. The word "artist" is a very loosely used word, isn't it? So the question is - how do you make the most of your talent in such an unstable profession as music?

1. The music industry is tough. You have to be versatile and dedicated. My biggest advice to anyone wanting to pursue music as a living is to spread your wings across many facets of the industry. If you feel you are very good on your instrument then get into teaching. Make sure you know your theory. Teachers with limited theory get caught out very quickly in this industry. Teaching music is great to fall back on and gives you security particularly while you are waiting for bigger dreams. Let's be honest - when it comes to music, dreams are made in heaven.

2. Learn how to use technology and run a small studio from home. You do not need a lot of money these days to start creating great recordings. A sequencer, a small mixer, and a mic to run through your stereo speakers is enough to get you going. With this gear you can start developing your ear

for mixing and producing. And eventually work for others if you are good at it. Learn about all the tricks in MIDI and Audio recording and learn about all the latest music software out there including the skill of sampling.

3. Learn the art of composing your own music. Next month I will start talking about ways of making your compositions more interesting. If you can develop the skill of composing music in all genres and styles that could be a career in itself. Remember all the booming industries that need music. ie computer game industry. There are also ad agencies, music libraries and film music areas that you can explore. That said, it takes a while to develop the technique to compose in a versatile way. So get it right!

4. Network. Contacts go a long way in the music industry. Develop them and use them!!

5. You need a thick skin in music. Musicians are sensitive, particularly about their own works. So be prepared to face a brick wall with your music, your playing etc. Be passionate and dedicated. If the song

you submit to a publisher gets knocked back - move on. As long as you believe in what you do eventually something will happen.

6. There are many egoists in the music industry. Let us be honest and say that most musicians are on an ego trip at times. Be humble - don't think you are the greatest thing around. Music is not a sport it is art. And there are many people as talented as you in whatever facet of the music industry you get involved in.

7. Get a web site. Create presence on the internet. Speaking from experience - try and go independent as much as possible. The internet has changed music forever. I can't describe the pleasure I get from selling my CD worldwide without the interference of record companies etc. With your web site you have the same web space as anyone else online. It all depends how you promote yourself. Send music to radio stations and magazines and ask for a review, playback or even interview. Link with as many people as possible and get listed in directories for your musical service.

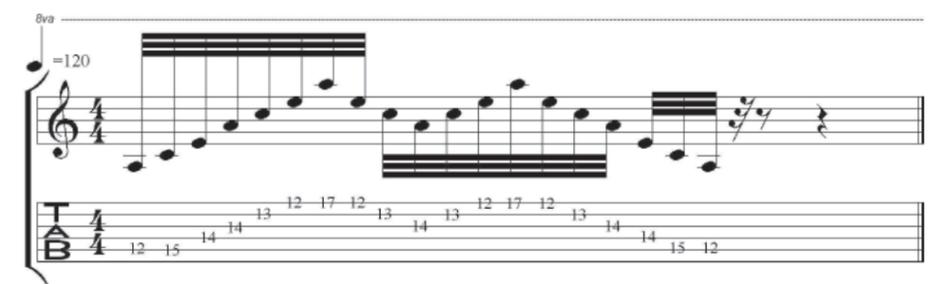


Beginner Exercises

Exercise 1

—Whole tone scale score here—

Last month I gave you a semitone scale to use as a warm up exercise. The purpose of that exercise was to create fluency and articulation. Same story with the whole tone scale below. However the picking pattern is very different this time. You strum down every time you swap strings and strum up when you come up again. This technique is more efficient than alternate picking, because of the odd number pattern per string (ie 3 notes per string) and makes it much more economical for your right hand. Same tips as with semitone... Left hand - arch fingers, elbow straight, space out fingers, imagine you are holding a tennis ball in your hand, play with tips of fingers. Right hand - Pick should be straight and digging into your notes, alternate picking on every note. Alternate between the semitone and whole tone scales now as a warm-up.



Advanced Exercises

—Sweep picking score here—

Here is the A Minor version of the sweep picking arpeggio. It is a lot more trickier than the A major arpeggio I discussed last month because you have less room to move. Once again play it fast as 32 nd notes. With the right hand try and strum the pattern and palm mute and separate with the left hand. Check out the audio on my page to hear how it sounds. Until next month....Have fun with this. Stay progressive!

Ivan Bertolla is a Melbourne based composer/producer/guitar instructor who has released his debut CD worldwide of cinematic music "Beyond The Skies Eternity". He runs Mastermind Productions and Macleod Guitar School and can be contacted at his web site www.bertolla.com

Select

Punk Hardcore Emo Ska - By Robert Molnar

PUNK IN BRIEF

Fans of Glasseater will be pleased to hear that they have just completed their new album, *Everything Is Beautiful When You Don't Look Down*, and are preparing for its release on August 26th by touring with label-mates Bayside. Glasseater signed to Victory recently after recording for *Ides of March*, *Eulogy* and *Fearless*, and shortly thereafter they hit the studio. They recorded with producer James Wisner (*Dashboard Confessional*, *New Found Glory*); and spoke recently about the process: "We chose James because we've worked with him before and we trust him to capture the sound we are looking for, and he has a great work ethic." In Pennywise news, they'll be releasing their new album early next month with the title *From The Ashes*. Asian Man Records announce two new releases from Japan coming out this month. First off, *Nicotine's School Of Liberty* is blistering, punkrock from Chiba Japan, in the vein of *Hi-Standard* and *NOFX*. Asian Man released their last album *Samurai Shot* last year, and this follow up won't let you down with 17 tracks and some surprises. Also due out is *Neu* by Polysics. They are hard to describe, but fall on the side of electronic synth pop, and anyone who's heard of Devo or Kraftwerk should check out this band!

ALBUM OF THE MONTH

DASHBOARD CONFSSIONAL
A Mark A Mission A Brand A Scar
(Vagrant/FMR)

Dashboard Confessional take emo to new heights on their latest, and most evocative release to date. And all the anticipation has been worth the wait. Boasting more dynamic song structures, D/C manage to retain the poetic innocence of their earlier material. A heartfelt album that will redefine your concept of emotional, melancholic music.

EP OF THE MONTH

UNDERSIDE
Grounded (Get Up Records)

Melbourne pop-punk lads Underside pop into the studio to lay down some tracks and emerge with their second EP. In their fun-friendly style, Underside lay the guitar melodies on thick, alongside a healthy dose of vocal harmonies. A Melbourne band to definitely follow up on.

NEW RELEASES

STRUNG OUT
Live In A Dive (Fat Wreck Chords)
Fat faves Strung Out dish out a frenzy of their razor



UNDERSIDE

sharp punkrock in the next instalment in the Live In A Dive Series. Complete with an awesome comic book created by frontman Jason Cruz himself, this album will take you back to the Strung Out show you went to last month.

ME FIRST AND THE GIMME

GIMMES

Take A Break (Fat/Shock)
Punk Rocks favourite cover band spin back round to their R&B favourites, punking-up all time classic (and not so classic) tracks like *End Of The Road*, *Where Do Broken Hearts Go* and *Crazy*. There's also a cool cover of Sinead O'Connor's *Nothing Compares To You*, making this a must for your next punk party.

GARRISON

The Silhouette (Revelation/Stomp)
Screamo fans will enjoy Garrisons varied screamy/emo-pop hybrid, with their distinct vocal style along the lines of At The Drive In and Hot Water Music.

DROPKICK MURPHYS

Blackout (Hellcat/Shock)
Celtic punk experts refine an old skool style relative to the Sex Pistols, and, as always, have a hell of a lot of fun along the way. Once again, the bagpipes feature heavily throughout, and this double CD digipak comes with it's own bonus DVD of live Murphys performances.

BEAR VS SHARK

Right Now, You're In The Best Hands (Equal Vision/Stomp)
Bear Vs Shark are as eclectic as their name suggests, and wear their musical influences on their sleeves. With hints of At The Drive In, Fugazi and Radiohead; BVS work as an entity outside any predetermined genre.

Send Punk News, Releases, Tour Dates to SELECT C/- Mixdown, 3 Newton Street, Richmond, Vic, 3121 or email robmolnar@hotmail.com.