

"Dale's Blues"

By Dale Miller

"Dale had (has) a distinct sound characterized by walking bass lines using his right thumb, index and middle fingers, concise and elegant fingering, and a sweet, clear tone. His arrangements were (are) lauded for fidelity to melody within chord voicings and the walking bass lines." (Re-printed from dalemiller.com)

Here's a piece from blues and fingerstyle master, Dale Miller. I found this one in an issue of "Acoustic Guitar" magazine sometime in the '90's. Obviously fingerstyle, a player with 2 or more years experience could likely scoop up this one in short order. And, just to note, I don't think he titled it "Dale's Blues."

It's a 12 – bar blues in "A" characterized by many static fingerings for the left hand (chord forms) and an "ostinato" – a continuing or constant idea - bass line played by the right hand thumb; generally on every beat and on those ever – friendly open strings. In bar 11, there's a classic "turnaround" descending chromatic bass line. Perhaps, one of the more significant technical challenges occurs within the 1st ending. Here, we have a simultaneous "hammer" and bass note. The left hand 1st finger has to come down at the same time as the right hand thumb kicks out the bass note. Not so easy.

Overall, given the fullness of the bass and traveling about on the fretboard, it's a great solo piece and a lot of fun to play!

Again, those disembodied numbers above the tablature staff are left hand fingering suggestions.

M.M. = 102
...with a "Swing"...

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The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). Below the staff are three lines of guitar tablature labeled 'T', 'A', and 'B'. The tablature includes fret numbers (0-9) and fingerings (1-3). The first measure has a triplet of notes on the 9th fret of the first string. The second measure has notes on the 0th, 1st, and 3rd frets. The third measure has a triplet of notes on the 9th fret of the first string.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. The tablature below includes a triplet of notes on the 2nd fret of the first string in the first measure, and various fret numbers and fingerings throughout the system.

The third system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. The tablature below includes a triplet of notes on the 2nd fret of the first string in the first measure, and various fret numbers and fingerings throughout the system.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps and a common time signature. The tablature below includes a triplet of notes on the 5th fret of the first string in the first measure, and various fret numbers and fingerings throughout the system. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.