

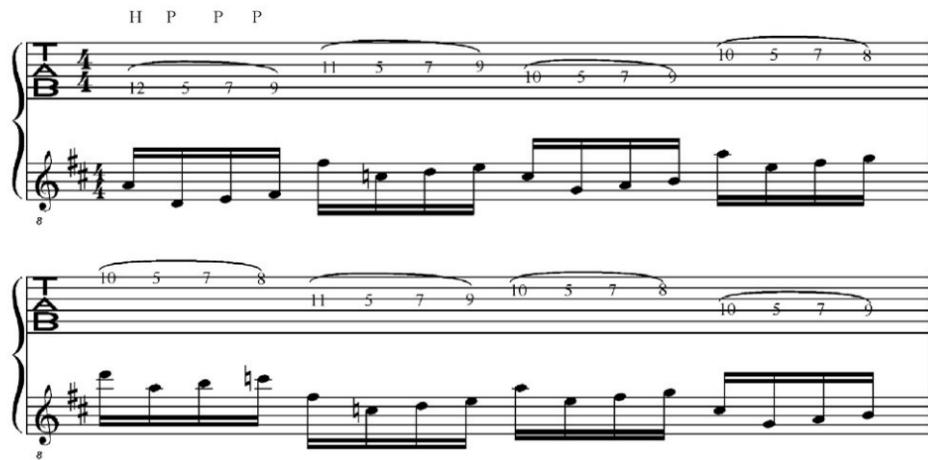


Progressive Music and Beyond

A discussion with Ivan Bertolla

One for the Shredders

Here is an exercise for the adventurous guitarist. If you are short on ideas when soloing and want to develop some original solos try some string skipping exercises when you right hand tap. This can start sounding rather exciting but it takes a lot of practice for the left hand to develop strength and clarity. The main problem about doing two handed tapping these days on an electric guitar is that if you do simple patterns you will end up sounding like a guitarist in the 80s. Now there is nothing wrong with that as I encourage guitarists to learn those techniques from the 80s as a start... but then try and develop them in a way, which will sound fresh and innovative.



This is in the key of D major and involves 16th note tapping exercises across every 2nd string. The technique involves Hammering the 1st note of the sequence and pulling off the other 3. If you want to know how I use these ideas check out the 1st guitar solo on a piece called *Gothic Castle* on my CD *Beyond The Skies Eternity*. If you play this at lightning speed it will sound exciting.

Ever heard of Atonal Music?

The term "atonality" can be described as music, which ignores the traditional tonal system of the Classic European Music. In other words it avoids any tonal center. Most of you have probably heard atonal music in a film etc. but just aren't aware of it. Music on commercial radio is all tonal and gravitates to a certain key

or harmony. In the early 1900s composers like Schoenberg felt that tonal music had become exhausted and therefore he wanted to increase the use of chromatics, and increase the use of unconventional harmonies which weaken tonality.

Atonal composers use this as a structure

Perfect Unison	0	Tritone	6
Minor Second	1	Perfect Fifth	7
Major Second	2	Minor Sixth	8
Minor Third	3	Major Sixth	9
Major Third	4	Minor Seventh	10
Perfect Fourth	5	Major Seventh	11

So if we started from C

C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

The basis of starting to compose atonal music is the "twelve-tone technique". It is a row or set arrangement of the twelve notes of the chromatic scale.

If I was to create a composition starting from C (not in key of C) I could create 2 tetrachord melodies using these orders

Bar 1 starting from C

C	C#	E	F#
0	1	4	6

Bar 2 starting from G

G	A	C	D
0	2	5	7

Two of the techniques used by atonal composers was to reverse, and invert the original order of these pitch sets. Most atonal music sounds average but some works well. Atonal music is a very big world and this short example doesn't even begin to explain it. My purpose here was simply to introduce you the basic language. If you are short of ideas try atonal music you might create something emotional using mathematics. When you understand this then read up on what you can do using a matrix and using longer pitch sets.

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 .. Website www.bertolla.com



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