TRIO TUNES

Grand Criteria of Excellence — Jazz Guitar Method Book

Version 4.0 — December 2025

by Mike Bryant

Welcome

This method book presents 11 original compositions in the style of jazz guitar masters, designed for the guitar trio format (guitar, bass, drums). Each chapter provides comprehensive study material including harmonic analysis, scale palettes, triad pair vocabulary, chord voicings, and structured practice routines.

The songs are ordered by compositional interest, educational value, and performance appeal—placing the strongest material first while building a complete repertoire that spans lyrical, modern, and groove-based styles.

> *"This is absolutely 'real music,' not an exercise book in disguise."*

Table of Contents

> 🎵 **TIER 4: GROOVE ANCHOR (8.0)**
>
> **Chapter 11: Greezy**   Grant Green Style — 8.0

How to Use This Book

Chapter Structure

Each chapter follows a consistent format:

1. **Overview** — Style context and conceptual introduction
2. **The Form** — Complete chord charts with section breakdowns
3. **Scale Palette** — Scale choices for each chord
4. **Triad Pair Vocabulary** — Modern linear approach
5. **Three Choruses** — Progressive difficulty (A, B, C versions)
6. **Voicing Reference** — Practical chord shapes
7. **Technique Focus** — Style-specific techniques
8. **Practice Routine** — 4-week structured approach
9. **Listening Recommendations** — Essential recordings
10. **Self-Evaluation** — Mastery checklist

Suggested Study Path

Beginners: Start with Chapters 1, 5, and 11 (The Mirror, First Light, Greezy)

Intermediate: Progress through Chapters 2–6 in order

Advanced: Focus on Chapters 7–10 for modern vocabulary

Complete Study: Work through all 11 chapters over 6–12 months

Practice Philosophy

- Quality over quantity — 20 focused minutes beats 2 distracted hours

- Slow practice builds speed — learn it right, then speed up

- Record yourself weekly — objectivity is essential

- Play with others — trio practice is irreplaceable

- Listen deeply — study the masters referenced in each chapter

---

The Trio Concept

These compositions are designed specifically for the guitar trio format. Unlike big-band or combo arrangements, the trio places unique demands on the guitarist:

- **Harmonic responsibility** — You're the primary harmonic voice

- **Melodic leadership** — Melody and countermelody are your domain

- **Textural variety** — Single notes, dyads, chords, and everything between

- **Interactive listening** — Space for bass and drums to contribute

Stylistic Range

The 11 songs span the major stylistic territories of jazz guitar:

Style	Chapters	Key Focus
Lyrical/ECM	1, 2, 5, 8	Melodic phrasing, space, texture
Post-Bop	3, 4, 6	Harmonic sophistication, linear playing

| Modern Fusion | 7, 9, 10 | Complex rhythm, extended harmony |
| Soul Jazz | 11 | Groove, blues vocabulary, feel |

About This Edition

Version 4.0 reorganizes the method book based on compositional analysis, placing the most musically rich and educationally valuable material first. The tier system helps identify:

- **Tier 1** — Concert-ready, audience-pleasing, deep educational value
- **Tier 2** — Core repertoire for working musicians
- **Tier 3** — Advanced study for serious students
- **Tier 4** — Groove foundation and session versatility

All songs include corresponding iReal Pro charts, MusicXML files, and Guitar Pro files for practice and performance.

"The top 6–7 tunes alone justify the book. The full 11 make it future-proof."

Begin with Chapter 1: The Mirror →

GCE Jazz - Trio Tunes Method Book V4 © 2025 Mike Bryant

Grand Criteria of Excellence — Jazz Guitar Education