

# Talking about the Playing Style and Skills of Jazz Guitar

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## Abstract

Guitar can be played with other instruments or alone, And it is widely used, and many styles of music can be created by using guitar. It is precisely because of participating in various styles of music creation that the playing style of guitar is constantly improving. Guitar can be seen as the main instrument in arranger in both classical music and modern rock music. The timbre of guitar can show melancholy, joy, sadness and other emotions, which also means that guitar has infectious performance and is very inclusive at the performance level. In order to deepen people's understanding and perception of jazz guitar, this paper focuses on analyzing the playing style and skills of jazz guitar for reference.

## Keywords

**Jazz Guitar; Performance Style; Skill.**

## 1. Introduction

Guitar is the mainstream musical instrument in the world. It has a long history and cultural connotation, which has a great influence on the formation of major schools and promotes the development of music culture. In the process of continuous purification and innovation of music, guitar can be perfectly compatible with various styles, among which jazz guitar has strong times and performance characteristics. Music lovers also actively understand its development history and carry out related performance exercises, so as to make a breakthrough in jazz guitar playing skills in the process of continuous innovation and provide a good guarantee for its culture.

## 2. The Connection between Jazz and Jazz Guitar

The seven tones of a chord build a chord upward, which is called jazz guitar chord extension tone. In jazz, the characteristics of extension tone are obvious, and its timbre can bring visual concise beauty and make melody more beautiful. # 9 b9 # 11 b13 is one of the variant extensions, which can show tension, so it is also used in the main chord. When playing, the first beat usually starts with the bass chord root five notes. In order to avoid conflict with the keyboard, the extended notes are often put into the accompaniment, so the extended notes occupy a high performance position in jazz music.

Jazz has its own school and unique liquidity. The early 20th century was the golden stage of jazz development. It originated in New Orleans, USA. Blues music is the music foundation of jazz, and improvisation is its style characteristic, with wide range and special timbre. In 1619, the first African slaves were sent to Virginia, USA. The slaves merged their folk music with American music, and then got jazz. It was precisely because jazz was based on Shuffle rhythm that it also had a certain rock timbre. Nowadays, different styles of jazz appear in songs in major bars. Jazz shows a relaxed and tipsy state, which can give musicians the ability to improvise, while jazz performance needs perfect beat to show tonality. When playing jazz, musicians need to be in the most sincere and relaxed state to realize the value of every note with jazz characteristics, and require that every note comes from the heart. Since the development of jazz, many styles of expression have been derived, such as Latin jazz, swing music and so on. Among

them, the playing tonality of jazz guitar is extremely personalized, which can be adjusted by a series of timbre and matched with electric guitar with resonance box, and play with heavy and soft timbre charm [1]. Other shapes of jazz are very similar to violin. Strings are made of steel wire strings, and the distribution of strings is similar to that of classical guitar. The neck is elegant and slender, and the front and back pages are curved. F-shaped holes are located on both sides of the panel, and the resonance box is thin and small. If you want to show different styles of jazz, you can adjust the timbre, and realize different music works with jazz style through the change of skills and scales. With the efforts of guitar music lovers and the help of electronic technology, the performance of jazz guitar will become stronger and stronger, and the development trend of jazz guitar will become more diversified.

### 3. The Playing Style of Jazz Guitar

Jazz playing is a musical language. Jazz music has strong rigor, which shows artistry through the application of skills. Strict playing rules are set in the creation, which makes it more jazz-like. But the playing style of jazz guitar is not randomly compiled, but gradually improved through the joint efforts of many musicians. If there are mistakes in playing, you can't get a good music effect. The final performance effect will be more personalized with the addition of jazz guitar. At the same time, there are many changes in playing skills, so jazz guitar is quite different from other guitar playing styles. The former has its own guitar style characteristics, and is also influenced by blues, blues, Bipop and other styles, which leads to changes in playing styles. As the foundation of jazz guitar, blues accompaniment not only has jazz elements, but also folk style and country style. Therefore, jazz guitar is a high-order version of blues style, and it also forms a new music style in the later stage of gradual development and evolution. Mainstream jazz guitars include modern jazz funk jazz and so on.

### 4. Jazz Guitar Playing Skills

The rhythm of jazz guitar is colorful and rich, Usually, you do conversion processing on blues syllables, It has strong application skills of jazz chord style, which requires players to have superb performance skills. In addition, music literacy is also the part that players need to improve. Only by understanding and mastering the music performance style of jazz guitar, as well as the changes of chords and rhythms, can they switch different performance skills at will when playing. The application of skills includes hook string method, right hand cut, string pressing method, push-pull string method, overtone playing method, wheel finger, etc. Players need to study and analyze hard and strengthen practice to improve guitar application skills. You can also practice scales and chords according to your own learning situation and proficiency, analyze your playing situation in time after each performance, sum up experience, integrate various jazz playing needs, and adjust timbre and playing methods to improve your guitar skills. In addition, you can choose whether you want to be a performer or an accompanist, train related skills according to the established goals, and practice persistently.

#### 4.1. Learn to Listen

To learn new jazz guitar music, it is necessary to pick up the music, including chords, improvisation, musical forms, etc. Listen to the music played by jazz guitar masters and understand their background, so as to deepen your perception of jazz guitar. Ask yourself to be able to hear the key points in the music score, find out the key paragraphs and formats, so as to grasp the style characteristics and play a complete music with jazz style perfectly [2].

#### 4.2. Understanding and Tonality

The tonality of the whole track will be affected by the key sign. Usually, the appearance of lifting numbers will show specific rules, which is convenient for understanding, analyzing and

remembering. The order of ascending sign is F # C # G # D # A # E # B #, while the order of descending sign is opposite to ascending sign, that is, Bb Eb Ab Db Gb Cb Fb. Find out the last ascending sign from the tone sign and move up by half a tone, that is, the tonic can be obtained, and the tonic can also be obtained by positioning the penultimate descending sign. For example, if there are three descending signs Bb Eb Ab in the key sign, then the penultimate descending sign is the tonic, so this key is called Eb Major. But there are exceptions: If there is a Bb in the key sign, then the penultimate drop sign does not exist, so you only need to know that a drop sign represents F major.

If you find some keys, you can play a minor with the same letter name for all chords in the key, and then continue to do related work similar to major. In addition, to find out whether the chords in a track are in the same key, mark the scale changes in solo in subsequent exercises. Establishing chords can create your own solo, which has high musical value. It can help players learn chord substitution and chord decoration, and make the tune richer.

### 4.3. Guitar Chord, Scale and Rhythm Practice

The compressed form of guitar chords belongs to a new system of learning harmony, while the aggregated form belongs to another form of guitar chords. In the former, guitar players are allowed to use personalized harmony and use it in accompaniment or solo. When playing, we should follow the principle of simple personality, and broaden the harmony vocabulary of guitar players in order to make guitar chords richer.

For guitar scale practice, you should first learn how to touch, so that you can pop up the two-octave between each scale. When we understand and master the use of harmony, melodic minor, major and subtractive scales, we can naturally skillfully play the fourth and fifth degrees in scales. Understand the chords, and learn to use rhythm or melody to touch in to create stimulation and tension, and show it in solo. Touching can be used as a logical way to circulate in and out of a specific tonality.

Rhythm training should be carried out with the metronome every day, starting at 60 speed and speeding up gradually. For jazz guitar, emphasis should be placed on the second beat, and then the eighth note should be played in swing music. Add some segmentation in practice, and keep your mind relaxed during training.

## 5. Conclusion

Jazz guitar playing can make the expressive force of music theme more prominent and rich, and present a better auditory experience. At the same time, it can combine other guitar styles to create a more emotional music environment, and stimulate people's emotional resonance through superb interpretation. Now, the style types of jazz guitar are in a state of contention, which requires guitar lovers to further analyze and summarize, introduce some elements with the characteristics of the times into jazz guitar, and change the overall performance by adjusting timbre and scale changes.

As a result, it can be optimized and developed, so that more jazz guitar music schools, skills and works with distinctive characteristics can be discovered.

## References

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