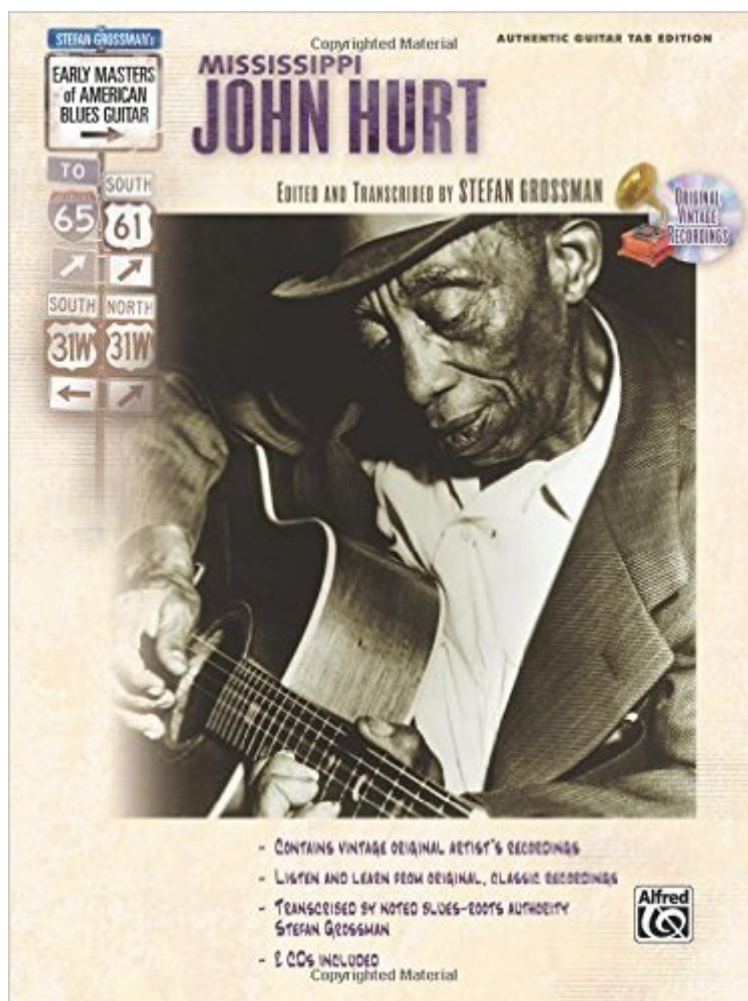


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Stefan Grossman's Early Masters Of American Blues Guitar: Mississippi John Hurt, Book & CD



Synopsis

The Early Masters of American Blues series provides the unique opportunity to study the true roots of modern blues. Stefan Grossman, noted roots-blues guitarist and musicologist, has compiled this fascinating collection of 26 songs legendary blues guitarist Mississippi John Hurt. In addition to Stefan's expert transcriptions, the book includes a CD containing the John Hurt's original recordings so you can hear the music as it was originally performed. Mississippi John Hurt had a fascinating career, originally recording a handful of songs in the late 1920s, and, after disappearing for nearly 30 years, being rediscovered by a new generation of musicians that included Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Stephen Sills. Found in 1963 living in a small town in Mississippi, by an admirer who tracked him down through the lyrics of his 1928 single "Avalon Blues," Mississippi John Hurt was persuaded to go to Washington, D.C. and start a new career. He spent the next three years performing and recording for a whole new group of fans. In addition to transcribing all the songs in this collection, Stefan Grossman was also a student of John Hurt.

Book Information

Series: Stefan Grossman's Early Masters of American Blues Guitar

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Customer Reviews

This book covers most if not all of Mississippi John Hurt's songs (26 songs total). This is essentially the same book as the older Stefan Grossman's Masters of Country Blues Guitar, The Music of Mississippi John Hurt, Edited by Aaron Stang. The two CDs are very high quality recordings of live performances, possibly not available elsewhere. Shake That Thing and Sliding Delta are included

here. I've been unable to find MJH recorded version of these songs elsewhere. These recordings just by themselves are probably worth the price of the whole package. Songs are presented in tablature and standard music format. All the words for all the verses are present. The tablature is big and easy to read. There are several songs where the tablature transcriptions are just for the break. The parts that aren't tabbed out should be the easiest parts to figure out. Or, you can learn the break and just use that to accompany your singing. Again each song is represented, on a separate page, in standard music format, with the melody line and the cords noted. I wanted Coffee Blues spoon fed to me one loving spoonful at a time, in its entirety, so I'm a little disappointed that only the break was included as tablature. I'm sure that filling in the gaps will make me a better musician. That is the whole point isn't it?

Grossman is serious about the blues. A gifted teacher (see his DVDs here at), here he presents the student with an excellent and nicely legible Guitar Tab of 26 of Mississippi John Hurt's songs, including all the hits "My Creole Belle", "Louis Collins", and some not so known like, "Blessed Be the Name" and "Sliding Delta". As with other Grossman products, excellence is the keyword. Grossman wants precision and he wants feel, but before you can "own" and begin to add signature to a song, you must learn it. He feels that you can best learn from the master himself, so included is two CDs of MJH's music, including the high quality live performances (with much improved recording over the 1920's and 1930's recordings), so it is a real treat to own. Great for early guitarists who may not yet be true Intermediates, but also great for advanced guitarists who need the music of MJH!

I have 2 books by grossman . there were a couple songs I really wanted to learn. so far I have found his transcriptions to be grossly oversimplified at best, and in some cases totally off. It's fun to learn fingerpicking licks or work on your reading skills, but you can make the music itself much better by using your ear.

Bought for my husband who highly recommends this. He says it is great for learning Mississippi picking style, nothing better than getting this set. He told me to give this the highest rating, he raves on about this song book with lyrics and chords, which has 2 accompanying CDs!

Although I love the music of MJH, in this instructional book the tabs are incomplete when compared to the CDs' musical performances, so you can only learn parts of the songs. Also, the tabs could be for the beginning, middle, or end of the song. The original recordings are great from a music history

standpoint and general listening, but it is often very difficult to hear exactly what John is playing. That said, I have still learned many useful and enjoyable MJH-style licks. I feel that the book was definitely worth the money at the price, but I am unhappy with its incompleteness. It would have been better, I think, if the anthology covered fewer songs with more detail.

This book came on time and I was pleased with the condition. The book itself is well laid out although I would have hoped that the CDs were actual breakdowns of the pieces in the book and not recordings of the original recordings. It's not aimed at beginners and I would suggest beginning fingerstyle blues by Arnie Berle and Mark Galbo for a better breakdown of this style.

Amazing book of an amazing man by an amazing author. Mr Grossman does a great job as he painstakingly dissects John Hurt's complex blues compositions. The two accompanying CDs are the icing on the cake. SO easy on the ear for the commute to work! Thanks John Hurt/RIP and thank you Stefan Grossman.

His music is tougher than it sounds. Not for beginners. Haven't spent much time with the book as I'm trying to get my playing better.

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