

Gypsy jazz

Pioneered by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli in the 1930's, this distinctive and uniquely European branch of jazz has since spread across the world. For a string player, it is probably the most accessible and popular type of jazz.

This melody is going to look at how to play and improvise on “Minor Swing” , one of the best known tunes in the gypsy jazz repertoire.

1. First we'll play through the very simple melody, using the backing track provided.
2. Then we'll look at the chord sequence, and go through it playing the roots.
lay the roots
3. Minor Swing is an excellent tune for introducing the easiest possible approach to improvisation. We will do this by playing a single scale through the whole sequence; first the A harmonic minor scale, and then as an alternative the A minor blues scale

To do this we will try two different scales, both of which can be played all the way through the sequence

- the A minor blues scale
 - the A harmonic minor scale. Try this, starting phrases on the root note
4. We'll look at approaches to making “noodling” more musical, by starting scales on the root of each new chord, by intelligent use of phrasing with pauses, and by repetition of ideas.
 5. I'll show you three different swing bowing patterns you can use with these scales; chain bowing, one and three, and five and three.
 6. Then we'll look at using arpeggios to differentiate the chords, instead of just ploughing over them
 7. Look at how to decorate the arpeggios- swing, syncopation, up and down, starting not on the root.
 8. Finally we'll then look at some typical gypsy jazz licks.

We'll be doing well if we get through all this in an hour, but after the workshop you will get access to a pdf with all the scales, bowing patterns and licks. All of the ideas in this workshop will be applicable to use in the future with other jazz tunes as you learn them.

Other resources available from Chris Haigh;

“Exploring Jazz Violin” and “Beginning Jazz Violin” , published by Schott

<http://www.fiddlingaround.co.uk/exploringjazzviolin.html>

To look at or buy my other books, go to

https://schottmusiclondon.com/shop/shopsearch/result/?search_categories=&search=&q=Chris+Haigh

“The Fiddle Channel” on Youtube, where I am regularly posting videos on jazz and blues violin (such as “20 gypsy jazz licks for Dark Eyes”, or “Five harmonic ideas for jazz violin”)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcpPCtg0HHPa42ZGsmphfg>

I have a full online jazz course with MusicGurus (“Exploring Jazz Violin with Chris Haigh”

<https://www.musicgurus.com/course/exploring-jazz-violin-part-1-with-chris-haigh?aff=37>