

technique: **acoustic**

The Entertainer

CHET ATKINS SOLO ARRANGEMENT

TG On the CD

TRACK 41

The Entertainer as it appears on the 1975 album *Chet Atkins Goes To The Movies* and the recent compilation *The Essential Chet Atkins*. The Guitar used was a Gibson Chet Atkins electro-classical, recorded direct to a Roland VS-880 hard disk recorder, which supplied reverb and compression.

Guitar: Kit Morgan

TG TIPS

Picking

Whether he's playing acoustic or electric, Chet himself uses a thumbpick and two, or sometimes three, fingers. However, it's also possible to play the piece using fingers only, or (as in our version) pick-and-fingers. Where possible, allow for one finger covering each string, so you're not worrying about excess movement.

'Hoorah!' we cry, for it's Chet Atkins time again! This month TG transcriber **KIT MORGAN** takes the Sting out of this classic ragtime piano piece with our hero's cunning arrangement.

SCOTT Joplin, one of the great ragtime players of this decade, composed many a 'rag', but perhaps none as universally popular as *The Entertainer*. The tune was used as the theme for the movie *The Sting*, which brought it yet further public acclaim. The point of ragtime is to have an even accompaniment and a rhythmic, syncopated lead line – I can only guess that nobody actually told Chet 'you can't do that on a guitar!', so he went ahead and came up with this arrangement. Before we start, it has to be said that it's not really suitable for beginners, but nor is it as nightmarish as the arrangement of *Duelling Banjos* which we transcribed last month.

TUNING

The first thing to do is detune your 6th string down a tone to D. Next, you'll need to throw away your metronome, at least until the second time through the theme. Feel free to experiment with pauses and dynamics throughout the first and third runs through, but stick to a steady rhythm the second time or you'll lose that 'foot-tapping' feel which is such an important element of the style. Watch out for unexpected bass notes too; there's one just after beat two of the very first bar of the main theme, and several more along the way.

The middle section will take concentration (so try it slowly at first), as some of the syncopation is pretty tricky. The second half of this section brings momentary relief by falling into a more familiar alternating bass style pattern. Once more through the main theme 'freely', then it's a big *rallentando* into the Coda... there, that wasn't so bad, was it? And your nearest and dearest will love it enough to go and buy you that hard-disk recording set-up you always wanted. Probably. **TG**



Chet Atkins – he can play *The Entertainer* all the way through. Do not ever mess with this man.

EBET ROBERTS/REDFERNS

CHET ATKINS: *The Entertainer*

CD TRACK 41 »

Intro NC A13

$\text{♩} = 128$

12-14-10 12 9-10 9-7 7-9 6-7 2-4-0 2 4-2-1 0 5 6 2 3

rall

THE ENTERTAINER (SCOTT JOPLIN/CHET ATKINS). PUBLISHED BY SOXY MUSIC PUBLISHING LTD. USED BY PERMISSION OF MUSIC SALES LTD, LONDON W1V 5TZ.

» CHET ATKINS: The Entertainer (cont...)

CD TRACK 41 »

Main Theme

Chords: D, G, D/F#, D/A, A7

1° & § a tempo
2° only a tempo throughout

rall

Chords: D, G, D6/F#

a tempo

Chords: E9, A7, D

accel

rall

a tempo

Chords: G, D/F#, D/A, A7, D

a tempo

rit

Chords: D, D/C, Gmaj7/B, Gm6/Bb, To Coda, D/A, A7

rall

accel

1. D

2. D

Middle



technique: acoustic

» CHET ATKINS: The Entertainer (cont...)

CD TRACK 41

Chord progression: G, Gm6, D

Chord progression: G7, A6, E13

Chord progression: A7, D

Chord progression: G, Gm6, D, G, G#dim

Chord progression: D, E7, A7, D.S. al Coda

Chord progression: D/A, A7, D

molto rall