

fahey john - Desperate Man Blues

Date: Mon, 17 Nov 1997 16:00:09 GMT-10
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 Subject: TAB: Desperate_man_blues by John Fahey

Hi All,

Here's one of my favourite Fahey tunes. I think it's one of his first and is more melodic and less bizarre than others. Fahey indicated in his liner notes that he used a bass string tuned to G in unison with the second string but I couldn't work that out. Maybe he it to maintain an alternate base picking pattern during the first half instead of the one string bass pattern I've shown here.

Take note of the ghost notes (). These seem to be done by hammering or sliding up the neck on the first or third beat of the bar. They add alot to the song.

Hope you enjoy it. If you have any questions or corrections, please email me. I'm a bit iffy about parts. It's available on the Rhino Records double CD or one of the Blind Joe death compilations.

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DESPARATE MAN BLUES
 JOHN FAHEY

```

d | 2-----2-----3-----2-----
B | 1-----1-----1-----1-----
G | -----
D | -----
G | 0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D | -----
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d | 0-----0-----0-----0-----
B | 0-----0-----0-----0-----
G | -----0-----
D | -----0-----5-----5-----0-----
G | 0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D | -----
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d | -----2-----2-----3-----2-----
B | (1)-----1-----1-----1-----1-----
G | -----(0)-----
D | -----
G | 0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D | -----
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d|0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
B|0-----0-----0-----0-----0----- (0)---
G|-----0-----
D|-----0-----
G|0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D|-----
1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d|-----2-----2-----3-----2-----
B|-----1-----1-----1-----1-----
G|----- (0) -----
D|-----
G|0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D|-----
1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d|0-----
B|0-----0-----
G|-----0-----0-----
D|-----0-----h2-----
G|0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D|-----
1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

start A

```

vvv v
d|-----
B|-----
G|3-----0-----0-----
D|-----2-----
G|-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D|-----
1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d|-----
B|-----
G|3-----
D|-----0-----0-----0-----3-----3-----3-----3-----
G|-----0-----0-----0-----3-----3-----3-----3-----
D|-----
1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d|-----
B|-----
G|3-----0-----0-----
D|-----0-----0-----0-----h2-----0-----h2-----
G|0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D|-----
1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

* End A

```

d|-----
B|-----
G|-----0-----

```

```

D |-----0--h2-----0--h2-----|
G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

Repeat A;

```

d |-----|
B |-----0-----|
G |-----|
D |-----|
G |0-----0-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
  3 . . . 4 . . .

```

Repeat from start

```

d |-----|
B |-----0-----|
G |-----0-----|
D |-----0-----|
G |0-----0-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
  3 . . . 4 . . .

```

(B)

```

d |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----|
B |-----1--1-----1-----1--h3-----0--|
G |-----0-----|
D |-----|
G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d |0-----0-----0-----0-----|
B |0-----0-----0-----0-----|
G |-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d |-----2-----2-----2-----2-----|
B |(1)---1--1-----1-----3-----|
G |-----|
D |-----|
G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

```

d |(5)---5-----5-----5-----5-----0-----|
B |(3)---3-----3-----3-----3-----|
G |-----|
D |-----|
G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----|
D |-----|
  1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

```

Repeat from B

d |-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 B |-----3-----0-----
 G |-----
 D |-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 G |5-----5-----5-----5-----
 D |-----
 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

d |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 B |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 G |-----0-----0-----
 D |-----
 G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 D |-----
 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

Repeat last two bars

d |-----7-----7-----
 B |----- (8) -----7-----7-----
 G |-----7--h9-----7--h9-----7-----7-----
 D |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 G |-----
 D |-----
 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

d |5-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 B |3-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 G |-----0-----0-----
 D |-----
 G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 D |-----
 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

d |-----7-----7-----
 B |----- (8) -----7-----7-----
 G |-----7--h9-----7--h9-----7-----7-----
 D |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 G |-----
 D |-----
 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

d |5-----5-----5-----0-----
 B |3-----3-----3-----0-----0-----
 G |-----0-----
 D |-----
 G |0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
 D |-----
 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

Next bar 3/4 timing

Start C

d |-----5-----5-----4-----
 B |-----5-----5-----5-----3-----
 G |-----
 D |-----5-----5-----5-----
 G |5-----5-----5-----
 D |-----

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . .

d	s5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
B	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	p0
G									
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D									

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

End C

Repeat C

d	7	7	7	10	9	8			
B	7	7	7						
G									
D	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
G	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
D									

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

Repeat C

Repeat second bar of C

(D)

d	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
G									
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D									

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

d	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
G									
D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D									

1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . .

Repeat Last two bars

Play from start through to second repeat of A then from B

After reaching end play from start of C to start of D slowing and finishing.