

## Guitar Images Recording

### Light Through Mist

Olafur Eliason exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art at Sydney Harbor  
Exhibit called "Beauty"

#### *Describe Exhibit*

Tried several times to write it but knew instantly it was not right  
Messing around with guitar in hotel room and played a chord...knew right away  
that it was perfect for *Light Through Mist*. Entire solo is built around that chord.

Also uses a low 7<sup>th</sup> string A as a pedal tone throughout to create both a tonality and  
and interesting mood.

Also uses open strings played against closed, fingered strings in many passages to  
give a harp-like effect.

### Peace

I wrote this in a hotel room in Sydney, Australia overlooking the Sydney Harbor  
and Opera house. It was very early in the morning and the sun was just beginning  
to shine on the harbor and Opera House making the picture out of my hotel window  
simply beautiful.

This is a very impressionistic feeling solo.

Written in D major with Dropped D Tuning

Uses a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to A, one octave beneath the 5<sup>th</sup>  
string

It uses many lush chords.

The opening, lyrical theme is repeated at the end of the solo.

The piece concludes with a quiet descending line based on a D major chord. It ends  
with a simple triad of D, A and F# played very quietly.

### Regret

Originally from "Timeless Solos"..No time signature or bar lines

Begins with a single note theme.

I created a feeling of unresolved tension in this piece by with chords and triads using  
the interval of a ½ step or a 2<sup>nd</sup>, for example B against A or A against G or G  
against F#.

### New Day

Written in the "Aaron Copeland" style.

Originally from "Timeless Solos"...no time signature or bar lines.

In E Major

I play it on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A

Begins with the statement of the melody and then goes into a variation with a lot of motion.

The theme is restated and then the piece ends with a flowing linear line.

It ends on a somewhat unresolved chord.

### Longing.

Another solo originally in “Timeless Solos”...written with no time signature or bar lines

Also in A minor

Uses a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to A, one octave beneath the 5<sup>th</sup> string

Begins with a long single note melodic statement. Strangely the first chord in the solo is a C major 7.

There is a feeling of astrangement in the solo and I convey that by using a passage harmonized in 4ths.

There is also a feeling of tension and that is achieved by using suspensions and ½ step intervals. For example, I place a B natural right next to a c in the A minor chords.

### Hope

Another composition from “Timeless Solos”..no time signature or bar lines

Written in the key of A major

Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A

This is a lyrical, joyful sounding piece.

It utilizes a lot of major 7<sup>th</sup> and major 9<sup>th</sup> chords.

The solo features long, flowing linear lines.

It ends on a lush major 9/6 chord utilizing all 7 strings.

### Horizon

From “Timeless Solos” ...written with no time signatures or bar lines

Individual expression and interpretation encouraged

Moody, Dark piece in A minor...a favorite key of mine

Uses a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to A, one octave beneath the 5<sup>th</sup> string

Also called Tennebrae

Begins with a 5 note melodic statement that is varied twice

To me the piece portrays a dark beginning followed by a period of agitation or struggle and finally resolving into a mood of resignation.

The solo ends with three A notes followed by chords. Those notes symbolize the tolling of somber bells.

### Assurance

**This solo is in D major/Dropped D Tuning**

**It is a short, very melodic solo**

**Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A**

**It begins with a statement of the melody using lush major 7 and major 9 chords**

**It then goes into a flowing linear variation.**

**The piece ends with a restatement of the original melodic theme.**

### Distant Homeland

**A very short solo but one of my favorites**

**I wanted to convey the feeling of separation and longing..so there is a lot of emotion conveyed in just 25 measures.**

**The piece is in A minor**

**Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A**

**There is lots of tension in this solo, both in the chords and in the melodic intervals**

**For example, I use a lot of 2nds. The piece begins with a line ascending to a high E followed by a low f.**

**After the initial melody another theme begins with an A followed by a high B.**

**The last 9 measures start with a strong melodic statement evolving into a subdued feeling of separation, longing for one's homeland.**

### Vigil

**From "Timeless Solos"...no time signature or bar lines**

**Written in A minor**

**Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A**

**I wanted to convey the feeling of travail. Continuing on amidst doubt and despair.**

**The composition begins with a descending pattern of chords.**

**This is repeated with some variation.**

**What follows is a new melodic theme, mainly linear.**

**The piece ends with a restatement of the original descending line of chords with the solo concluding on a low A pedal tone.**

### Morning Aire

**I wrote this as an American Ballad with a simple, singable melody.**

**It is in D major, my favorite key..., and it uses dropped D tuning.**

**The melody is stated and followed by a variation, all in single notes.**

**The piece ends with a variation of the melody utilizing rich, full chords.**

### Alone

**This is a very dramatic piece.**

**It is written in E minor**

I played it on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low B  
I wanted to convey just what the title says, the feeling of being alone. A feeling of separation and to some extent sadness or sorrow.  
The chord forms utilize a lot of tension.  
The theme is stated in the first 8 measures.  
What follows is an interlude using many different forms of the E minor chord.  
This leads into a flowing linear variation.  
The first interlude is repeated, using different E minor chord variations  
Another flowing linear variation is presented and this evolves into the original theme, restated to conclude the piece.

### A Place of Rest

Written in E minor

Uses a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low B  
Written in the form of an Appalachian Ballad  
Begins with a kind of haunting, lyrical single note melody  
This is followed by a variation harmonized in 4ths and then a variation harmonized in triads  
The piece ends with a short quote two measures from the end, harmonized in 4ths, from the early American Shaped Note Hymn, "Pleading Savior".  
The final chord is an E minor chord played as a harmonic.

### Clouds

A very impressionistic piece.  
Written in D major with dropped D tuning  
Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A  
Lush chords throughout  
Ends with a flowing linear melodic line

### Gentle Voice

Another in my series of impressionistic pieces  
This one is in A major  
Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A  
Basically linear in nature with a sprinkling of lush chords  
I wanted a very relaxed feeling in this solo

### Sleeping Child

This solo seems to be a favorite of classic and fingerstyle guitarists.  
It is linear in nature and works quite well played either with a pick or with the right hand fingers.

I wanted to create the effect of entering a young child's room, seeing the child asleep and hearing the soft music of a music box playing.

The solo is in the key of C major.

It uses syncopation in the melodic line but the overall feeling is of gentleness and quietness.

### Daydreams

Another of my impressionistic styled guitar pieces.

This piece has an overall mood of quiet reflection.

It is in D major with dropped D tuning.

Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A

It begins with a linear 4 measure introduction.

This is followed by an extended passage alternating linear lines with lush chords.

Measures 26 through 29 present an interlude, a reflective musical pause, which is followed by a moving, flowing linear passage leading to the ending which diminishes in volume as lush chords are played.

### Reverie

Yet another from my impressionist collection of solos.

This one is in D Major, a favorite key, and dropped D tuning, a favorite tuning.

Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A

It is linear in nature with long flowing lines.

Toward the end of the solo the melody is stated with a series of very full, rich chords.

My goal in writing this was to create a reflective, pensive solo with a peaceful tone.

### The Sea of Recollection

This is a very melodic piece, one of my favorites, in the style of an Irish Ballad.

Again, I wrote it in D major with Dropped D tuning.

Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A

It is a short solo, only 35 measures.

It features a very lyrical melody with a touch of nostalgia.

The chords are straightforward, nothing overly complicated or fancy. I did not want to detract from the melody.

The piece ends with a harp-like cross-picking run leading to the concluding D major chord.

### Prairie Sunrise

I wanted to write a "Copeland" type piece that captured the peacefulness and beauty of the North American Prairie

Written in E major.

I like to use this as a demonstration piece in workshops dealing with "composing on

the guitar” because of its almost excessive use of the E major scale harmonized in triads and 4ths and its use of cross picking.

It begins with a simple, single note melodic statement that is restated in linear, triad and quartal variations.

It ends with a repeat of the original melodic motif and ends with a single high E harmonic.

### Fields of Culloden

I wanted to write a piece that conveyed the poignant feeling of a battlefield after the battle had long ceased.

*Culloden was a famous battle. Describe.*

Since this battle was pivotal in Scotland’s future, I wrote this in the form of a Scottish Ballad.

It is in D minor and in Dropped D tuning.

I play it on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A.

The piece starts with a single note statement of the melody and then develops.

I use chords with a lot of tension.

There is one variation harmonized in 4ths.

Finally, the piece ends with a harp-like run utilizing cross-picking.

### Sweet Memories

This is a piece written in the style of an American 19<sup>th</sup> Century Parlor song. It is a sentimental, nostalgic ballad.

I wrote it in A major.

Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A

It starts with a statement of the melody in single notes.

This is followed by a restatement of the melody in basic chords.

What follows is a variation using rich, lush chord structures.

Finally the melody is restated in both single notes and chords

The piece ends with a single note run leading to a very full A major chord with the ninth added.

### Charlie’s Lament

Again, my fondness for Celtic music comes through on this lament.

It is in D minor with Dropped D tuning.

Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A

The piece begins with an 8 measure statement of the minor melody.

eight measure chordal variations follow each more intense in feeling

A harp-like single note interlude comes next and is followed by a very poignant, lyrical chordal melody.

The melody is then restated, harmonized in 4ths.

**This is followed by a kind of “free roaming” single note interlude.  
The piece ends with chords resembling funeral bells pealing.**

### **Morning Carol**

**This is a very short, joyful solo.**

**It is written in the style of an English Carol.**

**It is in D major with dropped D tuning.**

**Played on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A**

**It is an ideal piece to be used as a prelude to a Christmas service.**

**The piece begins with the 8 measure melody.**

**This is followed by variation and then another variation harmonized in 4ths.**

**The solo ends with a lush D major 7 chord with the 6<sup>th</sup> added right next to the major 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### **My Irish Home**

**I love Celtic music, especially Irish ballads. This is written in the form of an Irish ballad.**

**It is in D major using Dropped D Tuning.**

**I play it on a 7 string guitar with the 7<sup>th</sup> string tuned to low A.**

**The melody is played twice with variation on the second time. This is followed by a chordal variation using full, rich chords.**

**The melody is stated again at the end of the piece.**

**It is simple lyrical melody that captures the “song-like” feeling of Irish ballads.**