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## INTRODUCTION

Tommy's compositions and arrangements cover many styles and techniques. If you have studied the Mel Bay books for Tommy's CD's *Only* and *Endless Road*, you already have a head start in learning his music. The tunes for this project are heard on the CD *The Mystery*. Also you can study the Mel Bay project, *Emmanuel Labor* with Tommy's discussions of pieces from the above three CD's. From *The Mystery* Tommy plays and discusses "The Mystery", "Gameshow Rag/Cannonball Rag", "The Diggers' Waltz", "Lewis and Clark", and "Antonella's Birthday". There will be some slight variations between the video performance and the recorded tunes. Although he may not play a tune in performance exactly the same way each time, these transcriptions will allow you to learn the recorded version, and will give you insight into his methods. These tunes range in difficulty from intermediate to very difficult. There are a few difficult stretches and also Tommy's technique involves some innovative moves, such as fretting the 5th string with the thumb. But whether or not you perform these tunes, most of the enjoyment comes from understanding them and playing them for their beauty.

Some tunes are played with a thumbpick, and others are played without a pick, resulting in a softer sound. Others are played in a hybrid style, using a flat pick, allowing for strong rhythm and interwoven melody notes. With this style, the right-hand index finger is no longer available for melody. The melody is produced by the pick and the middle and ring fingers. This technique may be difficult for you if you are based in traditional fingerpicking, but it is well worth the effort to learn it. If you read musical notation, the tablature will still be helpful as it points toward left-hand position on the guitar neck. And if you are relying on tablature, remember that left-hand fingering is found in the notation. Learning the hybrid style requires understanding the information given in the tablature. I have tried to indicate the pick stroke directions that are most important, while trying to avoid repeating the stroke directions to reduce the amount of clutter in the tablature. In the hybrid style, the thumb and first finger hold the pick, and in accord with classical notation this is shown by a "p". The middle finger will be "m" and the ring finger will be "a". These letters will be stacked when the middle and/or the ring finger pluck notes at the same time as the pick. At other times the pick (thumb and first finger unit) and