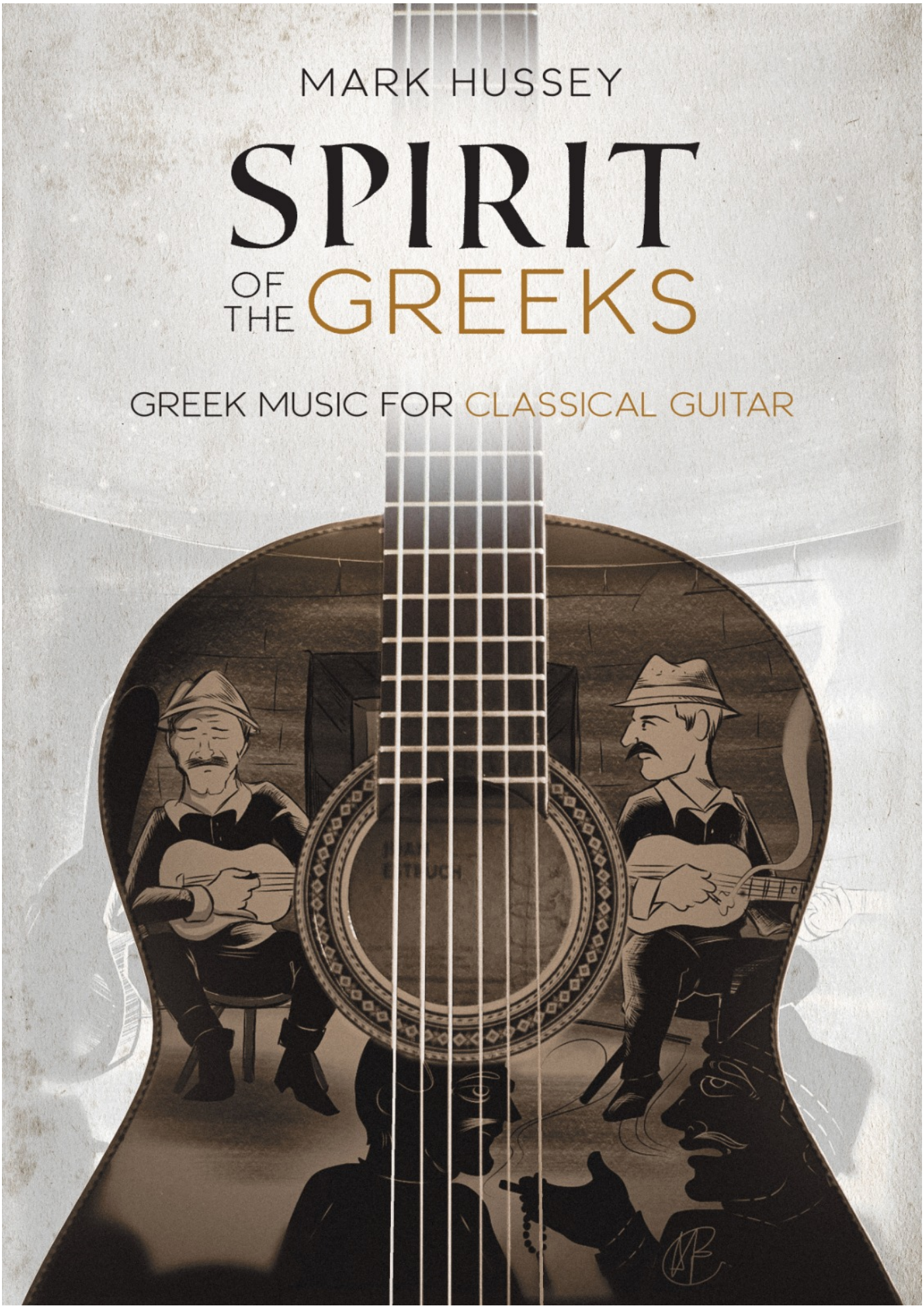
Preview

MARK HUSSEY

SPIRIT OF THE GREEKS

GREEK MUSIC FOR CLASSICAL GUITAR



About this book

As the numerous genres of music throughout the world radiate further from their roots, so too does the instrumentation and techniques that govern their execution. Purists, dedicated to authentic preservation of their chosen styles often overlook its development and sometimes show disregard for its adaptation and evolution. Traditional Greek music has been no exception yet inevitably it has still managed to evolve in numerous directions against strong resistance. In recent decades the normalisation and spread of a more simplistic western popular culture throughout the world has had a significant impact on Greek music. However, from its earliest years, the music played in Greece by immigrant populations had been subjected to change via censorship from the authorities and later by fusion with a number of native genres to what can today be broadly identified as Greek music.

The Mediterranean remains a region with a rich history of string playing musicians. Laying somewhere between the 'oud' players of the east and the flamenco guitarists of Spain are the bouzouki players of Greece and Cyprus, whose music was heavily influenced by the tragedy of Greeks fleeing persecution in 1923 from Turkey. Many of these refugees came from the major port city of Smyrna, now Izmir. This publication pays tribute to the music that radiated from this period through to modern times via an interpretation on classical guitar. A brief account of the history of Greek music and its development precede numerous classical / flamenco guitar arrangements of songs that have become deeply embedded in Greek culture.

Special thanks

I would like to thank the following individuals for their help, advice, support and encouragement. Without your valuable input it would have proved near impossible to publish and share this work.

Tilemachos Athanasiadis, Kristina Jovic, Evelina Agelou, Marie-Nicole Arbelias, Christos Apostolou, Clair Blakeway, Andreas Liondaris, Michael Zambetas Jr, Ivan Gomez, Alex Klokkaris, Dimitris Kougioumtzis, Justyna Janik & Major Axis Productions

Author and arranger - Mark Hussey
Book cover and art by Justyna Janik & Dimitris Kougioumtzis
First edition 01/06/2021
Edited by Clair Blakeway
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About the author

Mark Hussey emigrated from the UK to Cyprus as a teenager, where he began an apprenticeship in Greek music under the wing of his cousin, a bouzouki player. Two decades later, after completing his doctoral studies in virology at the University of Oxford, Mark pursued an alternative career to become an internationally acclaimed solo guitarist, producer and songwriter. With several albums to his name, his musical interests span a wide range of genres. Marks passion for the tradition and evolution of Greek music is evident in his beautiful and virtuosic arrangements carefully crafted for this study.

Written by Vinzenz Benjamin

Preview

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Preview

Spirit of the Greeks

Greek music for classical guitar

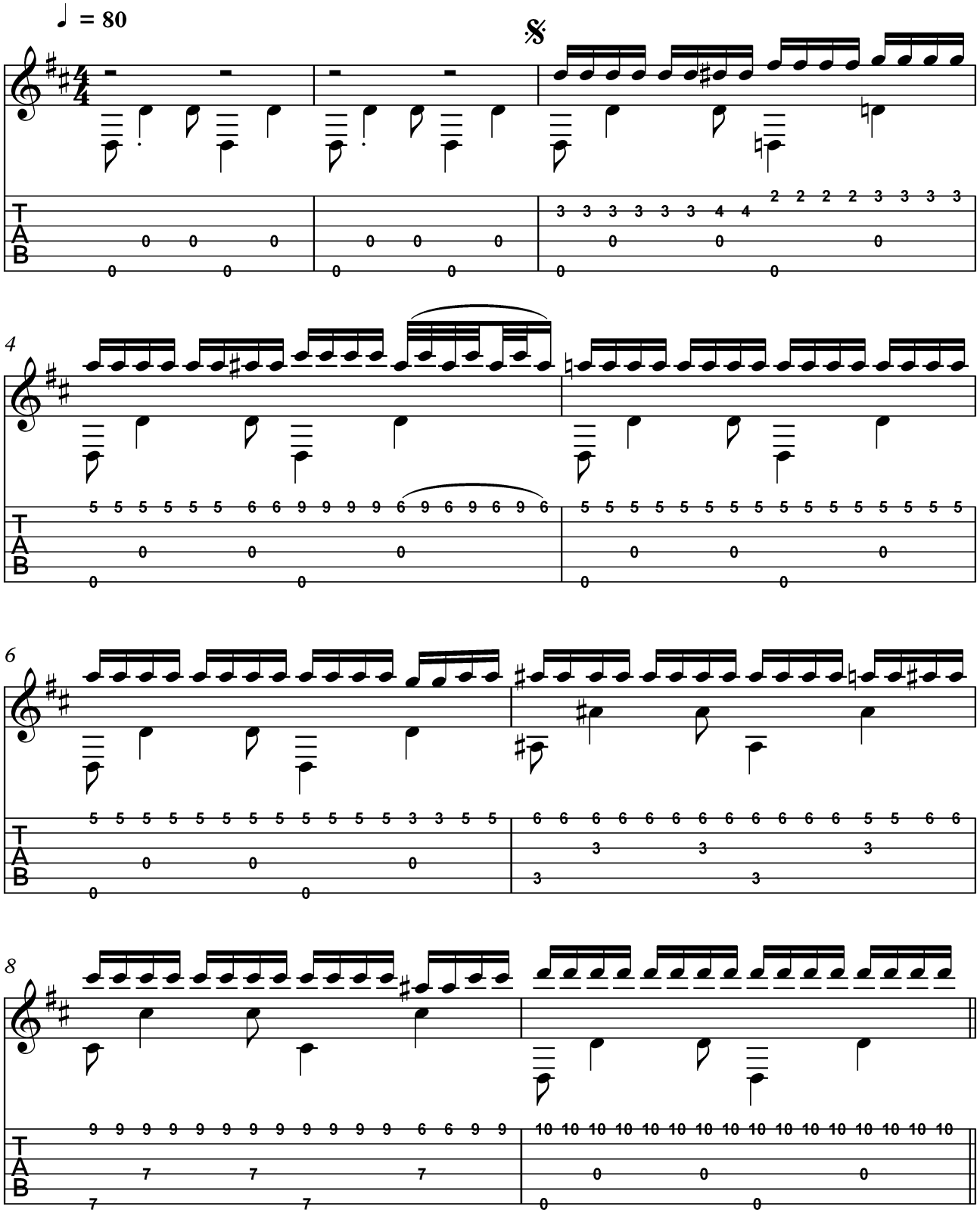
Preview

Misirlou

Traditional

⑤ = G
⑥ = D

Arrangement Mark Hussey



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