

Nashville Acoustic Camps: “Dobro Crash Course 3” with Ivan Rosenberg
Class 3 Review and Homework
June 20

Today we learned some convenient ways of playing in the key of Am

Review the provided charts and compare them to the charts for the key of Em/G. Notice that the overall patterns are the same, but ‘home base’ has shifted to accommodate our new key. For the keys of C and Am, our straight-bar 1-chord at the 5th fret is our home base, so relative to G, everything has shifted up 5 frets (and in the case of frets 7 to 12 in the Keys of G/Em, that chunk of the pattern has also been moved to begin at our open strings in the keys of C/Am). If the ‘patterns’ aren’t clear to you yet, don’t worry – give it time.

Jerusalem Ridge

The A sections of Jerusalem Ridge provide a nice practice routine for working through all the usual hammer-on/pull-off stuff for the key of Am. See the recorded class video for some ideas for playing over the other parts of the tune. I recommend checking out Kenny Baker’s version to get the melody and structure of the tune in your head.

<https://youtu.be/jgV41BD9Fvw?feature=shared>

It’s a weird and crooked tune and a total jam buster, but it’s good to know Jerusalem Ridge in case you somehow find a jam or band where folks actually know how the tune goes.

Walk On Boy

A great song for learning where to find melody notes for songs in A minor. You have two versions to work with. The first is mostly in the open position, and the next uses three different melodic pockets built around the A minor chord inversions – that one will really open up the fretboard for you. A lot of the A minor scale works out great in closed positions, and the up-the-neck arrangement will show you how to do it.

Wayfaring Stranger

I think you’ll find this to be pretty easy compared to the other songs we’ve done in the course so far. I didn’t tab out this song on purpose – in addition to practicing the other songs, your homework is to use everything you now know about the key of A minor to work up your own solo! Refer to the recorded class for the basic melody and fretboard areas that make sense for this song, and then see what you can come up with on your own. Feel free to take a quick video or audio sample of your arrangement and send it to me if you’d like feedback.

Bright Sunny South in A minor

Check the recorded class video to see how many of the same ideas can be transposed to A minor.

Next week

We'll learn how to wrangle the key of B minor and work up a couple of songs. I think it will be most beneficial if I show you a bit of Hymn of Ordinary Motion and then show you how Walk on Boy and Wayfaring Stranger might shake out in the key of Bm. I'll quickly demo my tune, "The Creptid Mule" and give you my old tab for it, but won't spend too much time on it since I think it has less instructional value than reworking songs you already know in the key of Bm.

Other songs in minor keys or with minor chords

In the upcoming Q & A session (date and time TBA) I'll be able to briefly address any other songs or tunes in minor keys or with minor chords that you're curious about. Email me a list of any songs in advance if you think of it.

My next Zoom series will probably be in November on one of the following topics

Shoot me an email if any of these sound especially interesting to you:

1. **Solo Dobro:** strategies for working up songs solo so they hold up with no other accompaniment
2. **Surviving Fiddle Tunes:** strategies for getting through fast fiddle tunes without falling off the rails and learning a handful of tunes along the way
3. **Christmas Songs:** learn a handful of Christmas songs that sound great on the Dobro using exactly the kinds of fretboard pockets, licks, and tricks we've been learning in these Dobro Crash Course workshops

Reminder: for any questions about Dobro content, email me. For technical issues or anything having to do with Zoom or accessing files, email Megan. If you don't hear back from her in a day or so, get ahold of me and I'll do my best to help...

See you next time!

Ivan