

# Contents

ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....	3	CHAPTER 5—Malian Blues .....	26
PRONUNCIATION GUIDE .....	3	Major Pentatonic .....	27
INTRODUCTION .....	4	<i>Songhai Piece</i> .....	27
CHAPTER 1—Palm Wine Pickers .....	5	Minor Pentatonic .....	28
Two-Finger Picking .....	5	<i>Minor Pentatonic Duet</i> .....	28
Palm Wine Basics .....	5	Dorian Pentatonic .....	29
Parallel 6ths .....	6	<i>Dorian Desert Blues</i> .....	29
Making It Swing .....	6	Wassoulou Music .....	30
CHAPTER 2—Highlife and Juju .....	8	<i>Two-Guitar Wassoulou Piece</i> .....	31
Rhythm Guitar .....	8	CHAPTER 6—South African Pickers	
Juju .....	10	and Strummers .....	32
<i>Juju Slow</i> .....	10	Zulu Fingerstyle Guitar .....	32
CHAPTER 3—Congolese, Rumba, and Soukous ....	12	<i>Walking Song</i> .....	32
The Clave Rhythm .....	13	<i>Zulu Song</i> .....	32
Congolese Rhythm Guitar .....	14	Mbaqanga .....	33
<i>Matonge</i> .....	14	<i>Mbaqanga Song</i> .....	34
Congolese Lead Guitar .....	15	CHAPTER 7—Zimbabwe Rumba .....	36
Soukous Bass .....	15	<i>Sungura Stomp</i> .....	36
<i>Congolese Seben 1</i> .....	16	CHAPTER 8—Zimbabwe Mbira .....	38
<i>Congolese Seben 2</i> .....	17	Mbira Fingerstyle .....	39
CHAPTER 4—Music of the Manding Griots .....	18	<i>Karigamombe Fingerstyle</i> .....	39
Kora Style .....	20	Flatpick Mbira Guitar .....	40
Balafon Style .....	20	<i>Pidigori</i> .....	40
Ngoni Style .....	21	Lead Mbira Guitar .....	41
<i>Keme Burema</i> .....	21	<i>Pidigori Extended Lead</i> .....	41
<i>Diaoura</i> .....	22	Taireva .....	42
Lydian Mode .....	23	<i>Taireva (Version 1)</i> .....	42
Manding Swing .....	24	<i>Taireva (Version 2)</i> .....	43
<i>Manding Groove</i> .....	25	CHAPTER 9—Miracles of Madagascar .....	44
		<i>Sammy's Vamp</i> .....	45
		<i>Variation on Sammy's Vamp</i> .....	45
		<i>Malagasy Song</i> .....	46



A recording is included with this book. This audio can make learning with the book easier and more enjoyable. The symbol shown at the left appears next to every example that is on the recording. Use the audio to help ensure that you're capturing the feel of the examples, interpreting the rhythms correctly, and so on. The track number below the symbol corresponds directly to the example you want to hear. Track 1 will help you tune your guitar to this recording.

**Have fun!**

## PARALLEL 6THS

You may have noticed the use of *parallel 6ths* (a series of harmonic 6ths played in sequence) in example 1, an important feature in many west and central African guitar styles. Here's another exercise to help you get comfortable with 6ths. Practice playing example 2 cleanly and smoothly so that each pair of notes rings until the next is struck. The sound should be very connected.

2  
Track 3

## MAKING IT SWING

The key to all African guitar styles is rhythm. Finding just the right *syncopation* (accent shifted to a weak beat or weak part of a beat), the right feel, frequently makes all the difference. Example 3 is a Ko Nimo palm wine accompaniment in the style known as *amponsah*. It's based on the following bass line, which is played with the right thumb.

3  
Track 4



A closeup of **Ko Nimo's** picking hand. The guitarist's 1990 album "*Osabarima*" remains a landmark as the first CD recording of music by a Ghanaian artist.

