# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Guitar Method

SECRET AGENT MAN

> By P. F. Sloan and Steve Barri Arranged by Bob Morris Edited by Aaron Stang

Score

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SECRET AGENT MAN



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## **Teacher Notes**

#### Secret Agent Man

Recorded by Johnny Rivers. "Secret Agent Man" was a top-10 hit in 1966.

#### **Background:**

The '6Os British invasion ushered in more than the Beatles—it brought with it England's affection for the spy genre, best exemplified by lan Fleming's James Bond, the dapper and very British super-spy. Spy movies ruled the theaters, from James Bond (whose movie career has now spanned 40 years, 20 films, and 5 Bonds) to the campy American super-spies Derek Flint and Matt Helm. The tradition continues today with not only new Bond films but also with Mike Myers' tribute to the '60s spy genre, *Austin Powers*. Yeah, Baby! In addition to the movie theaters, TV was flooded with spy shows: "The Man From Uncle," "The Girl From Uncle," "The Saint," "The Avengers," "Get Smart," "I Spy," "The Prisoner," and many others. But the one that really started it all was a British TV show starring Patrick McGoohan as Nick Drake, aka "Danger Man."

"Danger Man" was shown in the U.S. under the title "Secret Agent." Each episode kicked off with an ominous voice-over: A messy job? Well, that's when they usually call on me, or someone like me. Oh yes, my name is Drake, John Drake. And, of course, that voice-over was accompanied by the equally exciting theme song "Secret Agent Man."

### **Performance Notes**

Guitar 1: This guitar plays the classic opening guitar riff and the melody. There is some difficult syncopation. Work on the counting and let the class listen and play along with the recording. At Section C the melody is combined with some fills to add variety.

Guitar 2: This guitar plays background fills that flesh out the harmonies. Everything is in 1st position. Although there is some syncopation, most students lock into these rhythms very quickly after hearing the recording. Guitar 2 is probably the simplest part in this arrangement.

Guitar 3: This is a simple strumming part. The student part contains basic rhythms, and the chord diagrams are printed throughout. The student needs to know only Em, Am, B7, C, and Bm plus a very simple but fun voicing for Em9. In the student part, I provided two ways to play Bm, a simple three-note voicing or the full barre chord voicing. Most novice players should play the simple three-note fingering; the full barre chord is difficult.

Treble Clef Bass/Guitar 4: This is the bass part. It can be played on guitar and/or doubled on bass guitar.

Bass Guitar: This is an optional bass guitar part. It exactly doubles Guitar 4 but is written in bass clef. If your bass player can't read bass clef, have him or her use the Guitar 4 part.

The song ends with the ultimate "secret agent chord." Technically this chord is Em9(maj7). I divided the voicing between the guitar parts. When these two simple chord fingerings are stacked one upon the other, the result is the full Em9(maj7) chord:

Em9 (Guitars 2 and 3)

