

walk on the wild side bass tab

Walk on the Wild Side bass tab is a popular search term among bass guitar enthusiasts and fans of Lou Reed's iconic track. Released in 1972, this song features a distinctive bass line that captures the essence of Reed's artistic vision. As a bass player, learning to play "Walk on the Wild Side" can elevate your skill set and enhance your understanding of groove, rhythm, and musicality. In this article, we'll delve into the details of the song's bass tab, provide tips for mastering it, and explore its historical significance.

Understanding the Song Structure

Before diving into the bass tab, it's essential to grasp the song's structure. "Walk on the Wild Side" is known for its smooth transitions and layered instrumentation. Here's a breakdown of its structure:

- Intro
- Verse 1
- Chorus
- Verse 2
- Chorus
- Bridge
- Verse 3
- Chorus
- Outro

The song features a consistent bass groove that runs throughout, making it vital to understand the feel and timing as you learn the bass tab.

The Bass Tab Breakdown

Now let's look at the bass tab for "Walk on the Wild Side." Below is a simplified version of the main bass line.

Intro and Verse Bass Line

The intro and verses utilize a straightforward yet catchy bass line. Here's how you can play it:

```

  \ \
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|---5--5--5--5---3--3--3---|
E|-----|
  \ \

```

In this part, the bass primarily alternates between the fifth and third frets on the A string. It's crucial to maintain a steady rhythm, as the groove is what makes this song memorable.

Chorus Bass Line

The chorus introduces a slight variation in the bass line, which you can practice as follows:

```

  \ \
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|---5--5--5--5---3--3--3--3---|
E|-----|
  \ \

```

Note how the chorus mirrors the verse structure but emphasizes the rhythm more distinctly. Make sure to lock in with the drums to create a cohesive sound.

Bridge Section

The bridge of "Walk on the Wild Side" features a different bass line that adds depth to the song. Here's how you can play it:

```

  \ \
G|-----|
D|---7--7--7--7-----|
A|-----|
E|-----5--5--5--5|
  \ \

```

This section introduces a new dynamic, so it's essential to focus on transitioning smoothly from the verse to the bridge.

Techniques to Master

Learning the bass tab for "Walk on the Wild Side" involves more than just playing the right notes. Here are some techniques to help you master the song:

1. Timing and Rhythm

The song's feel is critical. Use a metronome to practice the bass line, ensuring that you stay on beat. Start slow, and gradually increase your speed as you become more comfortable.

2. Fingerstyle vs. Pick Playing

Decide whether you want to play with your fingers or use a pick. Both methods can yield different tonal qualities. Experiment with each to find what suits you best.

3. Dynamics

Pay attention to dynamics while playing. The verses should have a laid-back feel, while the chorus can be played with more intensity. This contrast will enhance your overall performance.

4. Listen to the Original Recording

Listening to Lou Reed's original track will provide context and help you internalize the groove. Focus on how the bass interacts with the other instruments and the vocals.

Historical Significance of "Walk on the Wild Side"

"Walk on the Wild Side" is not only significant for its unique sound but also for its lyrical content and cultural impact. The song tells stories of individuals living on the fringes of society, reflecting the bohemian lifestyle of the 1970s in New York City.

Influence on Music

The song has influenced countless artists across various genres, from rock to hip-hop. Its innovative use of bass and rhythm has made it a staple in music education, particularly for budding bassists.

Cover Versions

Numerous artists have covered "Walk on the Wild Side," each bringing their unique interpretation. Some notable covers include:

- David Bowie
- Janelle Monáe
- Phish
- My Morning Jacket

These covers highlight the song's versatility and continued relevance in contemporary music.

Final Tips for Learning the Bass Line

As you embark on your journey to master the "Walk on the Wild Side" bass tab, keep the following tips in mind:

1. Practice regularly and consistently.
2. Break the song into sections to make learning manageable.
3. Record yourself to track your progress.
4. Play along with the original track to develop your timing.
5. Seek feedback from fellow musicians or instructors.

Learning "Walk on the Wild Side" can be a rewarding experience, enriching your bass-playing skills and deepening your appreciation for Lou Reed's artistry. With dedication and practice, you'll be able to deliver a performance that pays homage to this timeless classic. Whether you're playing at home or in front of an audience, mastering this bass line will undoubtedly turn heads and get feet tapping. Happy playing!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some common techniques used in the bass line for 'Walk on the Wild Side'?

The bass line features techniques such as slides, palm muting, and syncopation, which contribute to its distinctive groove.

Where can I find accurate bass tabs for 'Walk on the Wild Side'?

You can find accurate bass tabs on websites like Ultimate Guitar, Songsterr, and other music tab repositories that allow user contributions.

What is the tuning for the bass guitar in 'Walk on the Wild Side'?

The bass guitar is typically tuned to standard E tuning (E A D G) for 'Walk on the Wild Side'.

Who originally performed 'Walk on the Wild Side' and what is its significance?

'Walk on the Wild Side' was originally performed by Lou Reed and is significant for its exploration of themes related to urban life and the LGBTQ+ community in the 1970s.

Can beginners play the bass line for 'Walk on the Wild Side'?

Yes, while the bass line has some complexities, it is approachable for beginners with some practice and familiarity with basic bass techniques.

What gear is recommended for playing the bass line of 'Walk on the Wild Side'?

A standard bass guitar with good sustain, a decent amplifier, and possibly a compressor pedal can enhance your sound when playing 'Walk on the Wild Side'.

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