

# Mp3 Tim Sparks - Roots, Rags And Blues



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Acoustic Guitar Wizard Tim Sparks shows you how to play fingerpicking versions of Americana Roots Classics like The Mississippi Blues, Maple Leaf Rag, Jelly Roll Blues, Victory Rag, and Amazing Grace on this 2 disc CD-ROM. 9 MP3 Songs FOLK: Fingerstyle, BLUES: Finger-Picked Guitar Show all album songs: Roots, Rags and Blues Songs Details: Song List: Mississippi Blues- Willie Brown Maple Leaf Rag- Scott Joplin Amazing Grace-Traditional Jelly Roll Blues-Jelly Roll Morton Tanst Yidelekh-Traditional Victory Rag-Traditional Oriental Blues-Eubie Blake The Pearls-Jelly Roll Morton Grandma's Gospel/This Great Caravan- Tim Sparks/Vep Ellis Truefireis proud to present Fingerstyle Guitar Wizard Tim Sparks performing and explaining his amazing renditions of American Roots Music in "Roots, Rags, and Blues."

Roots, Rags and Blues is an interactive instructional and performance CD-ROM that includes 7 different Roots guitar tunes taught in video and tab lessons plus 6 bonus video performances of Blues, Ragtime, Gospel, Early Jazz and Klezmer, played on a Collings Custom Cutaway and a vintage 1917 Gibson L-4. Featured selections include, the Mississippi Blues, Amazing Grace, Jelly Roll Blues, Oriental Blues, Maple Leaf Rag, Victory Rag, Carolina Shout and a fingerstyle lesson on the 1918 Klezmer classic, Tanst, Tanst Yiddlekh. This package captures American Roots Music from the early part of the 20th Century, as reflected through fingerstyle guitar. The lessons and performances come with matching tablature, notation and extensive liner notes with internet hyperlinks. Roots, Rags, and Blues is a terrific value with 7 hours of instruction plus 6 bonus performance videos and a bonus audio CD, all for the price of one lesson. Fingerstyle Roots, Rags Blues presents two completely different arrangements of "Amazing Grace," a rendition of Mother Maybelle Carter's "Victory Rag" and early Jazz and Blues by the likes of Jelly Roll Morton, Scott Joplin and Eubie Blake. Sparks breaks down each tune, passage by passage, in detailed video explanations, notation and tabs that not only allow you to play the songs, but

also gives you a treasure trove of chord voicings, licks, scales and turnarounds to use in your playing.

Fingerstyle Roots, Rags & Blues is optimized for intermediate to advanced players and is presented on 2 CD-ROMs (Windows and Mac compatible). The course features 34 full-length video lessons, text overviews, standard notation and interactive Power Tab so you can "see" and "hear" the tab and notation played out at any tempo. TrueFire's video lesson player features zoom, frame advance, looping and other handy controls.

**TIM SPARKS BIO:** Born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Tim Sparks started picking out tunes by ear on an old Stella flat top during a bout of encephalitis that kept him out of school for a year. He taught himself to play the music he heard around him: traditional country blues and the gospel his grandmother played on piano in a small church in the Blue Ridge Mountains. At age 14, Tim was nominated by a musically astute uncle for a scholarship at the prestigious North Carolina School of the Arts. There he studied the classics with Segovia protege Jesus Silva while continuing to play all kinds of music, increasingly turning to classic jazz for inspiration. He adapted compositions by Jelly Roll Morton, Scott Joplin, and Fats Waller to the guitar, frequently reducing piano arrangements to their essence. Early influences were Doc Watson, Arthur Smith, and most importantly Duck Baker, who opened up a horizon of possibilities for fingerstyle guitar. After a stint on the road with a Chicago-based rhythm and blues band, Sparks arrived in Minnesota where he soon established himself as a journeyman guitarist and session player. While recording three albums with the seminal vocal jazz ensemble Rio Nido, Sparks also became proficient in jazz styles from Brazilian to Be Bop. It was at this time he arranged Carla Bley's composition "Jesus Maria" for Leo Kottke. ( Rio Nido's first two vinyl recordings have recently been re-issued on CD on the Japanese Vivid Sound Label. Sparks also found time to revive his interest in classical music, adapting Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite to the guitar, a work that has been cited as a significant contribution to solo guitar literature. For Sparks it was a labor of love that earned him the National Fingerstyle Guitar Championship in Winfield, Kansas in 1993. A sojourn abroad inspired his interest in European and Mediterranean styles, particularly the music of the Balkans. Upon his return to Minnesota, Sparks immersed himself in the ethnic music scene, performing on Oud and Saz in Middle Eastern ensembles and playing guitar in Greek, Klezmer, and Sephardic groups. This work culminated in the recording of Sparks' Balkan Dreams Suite, a remarkable collection of odd-meter guitar arrangements. Many of the Balkan Dreams compositions were recorded on Tim's debut solo CD, The Nutcracker Suite, in 1993. This recording was hailed by Guitar Player Magazine as "an exhilarating, odd-meter minefield

inspired by Near Eastern music" and "an important recording from a gifted composer, arranger, and performer." Two more releases followed on the Acoustic Music label, Guitar Bazaar (1997) and One String Leads To Another (1999). Sparks' work came to the attention of John Zorn, the saxophonist, composer, and curator of Tzadik Records in New York and thereby led to a new cycle of compositions inspired by traditional Jewish melodies. Neshamah (1999) is a solo effort. Tanz, which garnered Downbeat Magazine's highest praise, five stars, in 2000 and At the Rebbe's Table (2002) include ensemble work. All three releases have been acclaimed by a broad spectrum of critics and listeners alike. Spring of 2003 saw the release of Masada Guitars, featuring interpretations of John Zorn's music by Tim, Bill Frisell, and Marc Ribot. In recent years, Sparks' musical focus has come full circle, returning to the country blues and classic jazz that served as a springboard for his worldwide guitar explorations. He toured with Dolly Parton in 2005 and recorded Roots, Rags and Blues for Truefire/AGW.

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