

Mp3 Tony Green - Slim Pickings



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Finger-picking 6 strings of steel and nylon, Tony Green, a Chicago-based Scotsman, plays a selection of favorite instrumental guitar pieces, finally doing something about those pesky tunes stuck in his head for 10-odd years. 10 MP3 Songs FOLK: Fingerstyle Details: Tony Green has a radio station in his head Tony Green, may be the greatest guitarist youve never heard of. Mainly because learning guitar at 13, and playing in various basement and garage bands, I never played an actual gig. So you wouldnt know, would you? Its ok, how could you? Never played out. Practiced for years. Never left the bedroom. Not in a WWII-Japanese-soldier-left-in-the-woods-unaware-the war-is-over kind of way, just in a never-quite-got-up-the-nerve-and-was-too-scared-of-being-embarrassed kind of way. Loved the guitar. Classical, rock, jazz didnt matter. The guitar was MY instrument. I studied everything. Played everything I could. Took up all my time. (Actually, some of this time was spent practicing not real guitar, but air guitar, to the point that a nosy neighbor across the street, who could see my shadowy kneeling-below-the-stack-of-Marshalls activities through the bedroom window, once called my parents to let them know that I was having an epileptic fit.) But I still never played out and then I stopped playing guitar. So as good as I thought I was, no-one else ever knew. Went to university. Got a degree. Got a job. Moved to America from Scotland. Got married. Had kids, Went to Grad School. Got a bigger job. Got divorced. Fifteen years of grown-up life slipped by as easily as those twenty-five words. Then I started playing guitar again. That last part sounds quite dramatic, doesnt it? But to be fair, I also broke out my old train and slot car racing sets, started wearing my Boy Scout uniform and re-read all my Paddington Bear books. Right about then I saw Lou Reed interviewed on TV saying theres a radio station in my head and Im always listening Turning to my girlfriend I said I know exactly what hes talking about! You know when you hear a song for the first time on the radio and it starts out really well, then it takes a turn and its NOT

quite so good anymore, but in YOUR head you can hear exactly how you think it SHOULD sound? She stared back at me and said blankly No. I dont. In fact, I think there are very few people that can do that

Once I got over the idea that maybe I had been doing everything wrong for 40 years, I decided: It was time to take this music thing more seriously. Turning forty, I decided to record a CD of songs. Instrumentals, mainly, that I loved and had loved for years. With this first Slim Pickings CD, Im just getting started. My plan is to release one CD (or whatever medium will be used in the future probably some form of iTunes-controlled audio telepathy) of music whatever Im hearing in my head - every year. Les Paul is still playing in NYC at 91 years old (You really need to get out there to see him, by the way.) Chet Atkins once introduced himself by saying If it werent for the guitar, Id be out running wild, practicing law or medicine someplace . They're onto something. I figure I have a few decades left to keep playing music; to do what Im supposed to do. As I enter the second half of my life, Ive found what I truly want to do. Making and playing music. Playing guitar. Sharing what I hear in my head. I wish I could be more sophisticated and revelatory about it, but it really is that simple (and hokey.) I do regret the fact that I never got to thrash around onstage as a kid. The music Ill be playing for the rest of my life probably wont lend itself to that style, but you never know. Hell, if someone puts on Queens The Prophets Song, you will SWEAR on Led Zeppelins first four albums that Im having a seizure. Ah, heady days indeed. Its time for me to pay attention to that radio station in my head. And you get to listen.

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