

Chicago

“Chicago” has been a jazz standard since it was introduced in the early 1920s. It was written by the great Fred Fisher, who also wrote “Peg o’ My Heart,” “Dardanella,” “Daddy, You’ve Been a Mother to Me,” and “Your Feet’s Too Big.” “Chicago” has a slightly unusual form where only the first four measures are repeated. The melody is built around a repetitive syncopated rhythmic riff. You’ll hear it again and again with the lyrics “Chi-ca-go, Chi-ca-go.” As you work through the melody, try to get that same swing and bounce. Play it like you’d sing it. You’ll notice that I pretty significantly “swingify” the fast version of the melody. The rhythm just seemed to demand it!

I use the fourth finger quite a bit in playing this melody. As with any melody, you have other choices on the guitar. Try moving the melody up to a different position in the same octave. Here’s the first to line to get you started.

We added a break in the rhythm after the first chorus. Jason plays a rhythm click during the break to keep the band honest, rhythm-wise. In a real life band situation, probably only the soloist would be playing here. You need to keep the rhythm in your head and come in at the right time at the top of the next chorus.

Chicago

Key of F, CD tracks 21-23

F. Fisher, 1922

F F#dim Gm7 C7 Gm7 C7

Chi - ca - go, Chi - ca - go, that tod - dl - in' town, that tod - dl - in' town, Chi-

4 3 1 1 2 1 4 4

T 6 5 3 3 6 5 3 3 2 3 2 5 5 5 2 3 2 5 5 5 3

A

B

5 Gm7 C7 Gm7 C7 F Dm7 Gm7 C7

ca - go, Chi - ca - go, I'll show you a - round, I love it,

1 2 1 4

2 5 5 3 2 5 5 2 3 2 5 3 3 2 2 5

9 F G7

Bet your bot - tom dol - lar you lose the blues in Chi - ca - go, Chi - ca - go, the

2 4 1 2 4 2 4 4 2

3 5 2 3 5 3 5 5 3 3 5 5 2 5 5 2

13 Gm7 C7 Gm7 C7 Am7 D7 Gm7 C7

town that Bil - ly Sun - day could not shut down. On

3 5 2 5 3 3 5 3 2 5 5 5 6