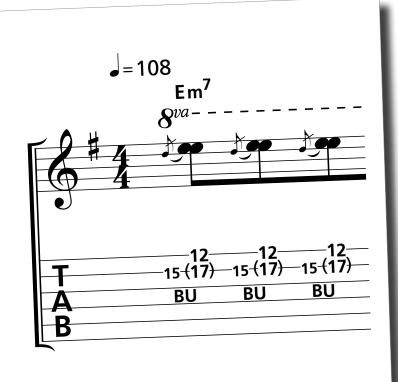
Steve Vai

SONG TITLE:	THE CRYING MACHINE
ALBUM:	FIRE GARDEN
RELEASED:	1996
LABEL:	EPIC
GENRE:	INSTRUMENTAL ROCK
PERSONNEL:	STEVE VAI (GTR) JOHN AVILA (BASS) GREG BISONETTE (DRUMS)
UK CHART PEAK: US CHART PEAK:	,



BACKGROUND INFO

'The Crying Machine' features on Steve Vai's epic album of 1996, *Fire Garden*. It's a track that shows Vai's versatility, with its funky rock groove and jazz fusion-influenced harmony.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Steve Vai was born in New York in 1960 and began playing guitar aged 13. The following year he took lessons with Joe Satriani (who later got his break on a recommendation from Vai, his former student). While studying at Berklee College of Music, Steve transcribed some of Frank Zappa's most challenging songs and sent one to Zappa himself. Zappa was impressed and offered Vai a job. He would later describe his young band member as a "stunt guitarist" because of Steve's extreme ability on the instrument. Vai left Zappa in 1982 then recorded an album of his own material, Flex-Able, which was released in 1984. Next Vai went back to being a jobbing muso, replacing Yngwie Malmsteen in the group Alcatrazz and backing up former Sex Pistol John Lydon in Public Image Ltd. He also worked with David Lee Roth, Whitesnake and Ozzy Osbourne. Vai has managed a successful solo career, too, which took off in 1990 with the release of the album Passion And Warfare.

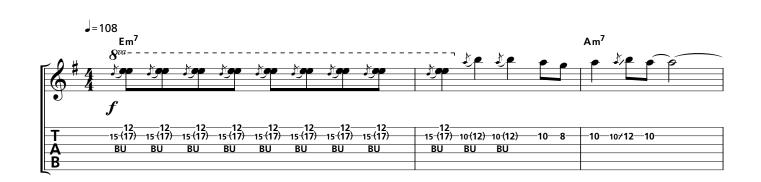
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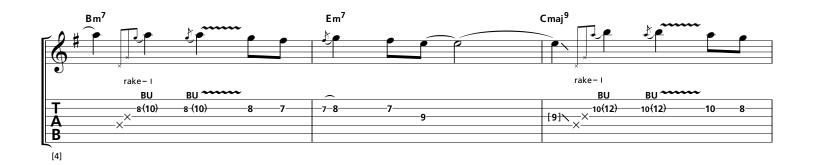
When not working under his own name or as a gun for hire, Steve Vai has been known to record and compose for Hollywood. His 2002 album The Elusive Light And Sound Vol. 1 is a collection of pieces composed for films including Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey and Crossroads. The latter was a movie starring The Karate Kid's Ralph Macchio as a young, classically trained guitarist who goes in search of the crossroads where blues legend Robert Johnson is said to have sold his soul to the devil in exchange for awesome guitar technique. Macchio's character Eugene meets the evil one himself at the crossroads, where he agrees to take part in a guitar duel with the devil's guitarist - played by Steve Vai. The climax of their duel, 'Eugene's Trick Bag', has been a favourite transcription of guitar magazines since.

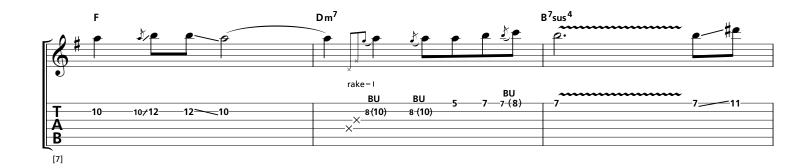
RECOMMENDED LISTENING

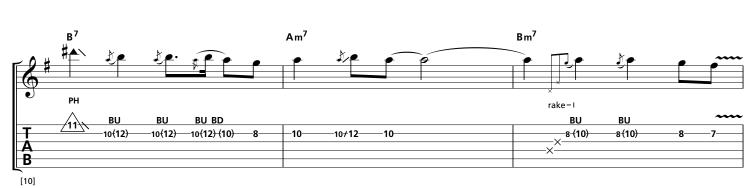
Vai's first solo album, *Flex-Able* (1984), bears the influence of his old boss, Frank Zappa, in its eccentricity. 'Eugene's Trick Bag' can be heard on the 2002 album *The Elusive Light And Sound Vol. 1*. Fans of Vai's solo work had to wait six years for his next solo release, 1990's *Passion And Warfare*; 'For The Love Of God' is a highlight.

Steve Vai Music by Steve Vai







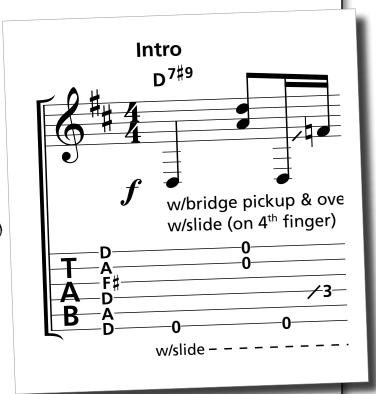


The Stone Roses

SONG TITLE: LOVE SPREADS SECOND COMING ALBUM: RELEASED: 1994 LABEL: GEFFEN INDIE ROCK GENRE:

PERSONNEL: IAN BROWN (VOX) JOHN SQUIRE (GTR) GARY 'MANI' MOUNFIELD (BASS) ALAN 'RENI' WREN (DRUMS)

UK CHART PEAK: 2 US CHART PEAK: N/A



BACKGROUND INFO

'Love Spreads' was the first single off The Stone Roses' highly anticipated second album, The Second Coming. It is the British indie group's most 'rawk' moment, featuring distortion and a great bluesy riff.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

The Stone Roses formed in Manchester in 1984. Their self-titled debut album appeared in 1989 to critical acclaim but modest chart success. However, the band won scores of awards in NME's readers poll and the single 'Fools Gold' cracked the top 10, helping *The Stone Roses* to number 9 on the albums chart. In 1991 the group signed to major label Geffen and released their follow-up album, Second Coming, in 1994. It went to number 4 in the charts, but by then arguments between band members had become common. In 1995 drummer Reni quit and The Roses had to cancel a scheduled appearance at Glastonbury - an appearance that would have capitalised on the success of Second Coming. Guitarist John Squire left the following year and after a disastrous appearance at the Reading festival singer Ian Brown and bassist Mani (the only original members left) disbanded the group. In 2012 the group reformed its classic line-up and performed a series of sold-out concerts.

NOTES

Around the release of The Stone Roses' debut album, guitarist John Squire was hailed as a new guitar hero. On that album he showed how he could 'play for the song, an approach that was inspired by his hero Johnny Marr. But he could also crank up the distortion and rock out, as on the album's closing track 'I Am The Resurrection'. Squire wrote most of the songs on The Roses' sophomore album Second Coming and, with its longer tracks, gave himself room to show more of his rock influences. Unlike The Stone Roses, which was pure indie rock, Second Coming was an all-out blues rock affair that disappointed fans of the band's earlier sound.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

If you are new to The Stone Roses and like the sound of 'Love Spreads' you may prefer Second Coming (1994) to the band's self-titled debut (1989). Tracks like 'Good Times' and 'Breaking Into Heaven' are blues rock with lots of lead guitar. The Stone Roses is worth hearing for John Squire's more indiestyle playing on songs like 'Waterfall'. From the same album, 'Shoot You Down' has some nimble Hendrixstyle rhythm playing and the album closer 'I Am The Resurrection' is an epic indie rock anthem.

The Stone Roses

Words & Music by John Squire



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