

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: N/A
 US CHART PEAK: N/A



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 played 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*.

NOTES

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.

The Crying Machine

Steve Vai

Music by Steve Vai

♩=108

Em⁷

mf

TAB: 15(12) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 12 15(17) 15(17) 12 10(12) 10(12) 10 8

Am⁷ Bm⁷ Em⁷ Cmaj⁹

TAB: 10 10/12 10 BU BU 8(10) 8(10) 8 7 8 7 9 BU BU 10(12) 10(12) 10 8

[3]

F Dm⁷ B⁷_{sus4} B⁷

TAB: 10 10/12 12 10 BU BU 8(10) 8(10) 5 7 7(8) 7 7 11 11 12 12 10 10 9 7

[7]

E F#add⁴/E Emaj⁷

TAB: 7 9 BU BU 9 9/12 (11-12) 11 11 11 11(12) BU BU 14(16) (14)

[11]

F#add⁴ Aadd⁹ Badd⁴/A

TAB: 14 BU BU 11 9 11 11 12(14) BU 11(12) 11 12 11

[14]

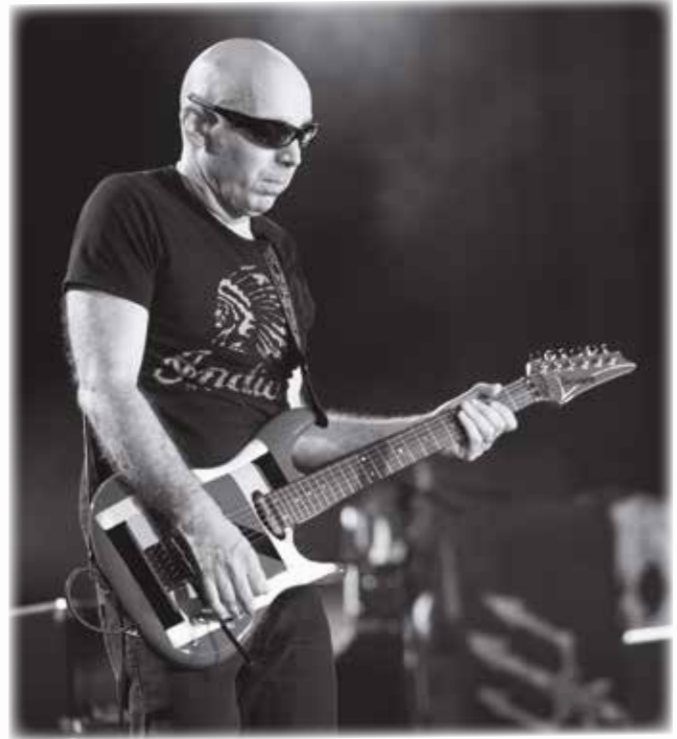
Joe Satriani

SONG TITLE: SURFING WITH THE ALIEN
ALBUM: SURFING WITH THE ALIEN
RELEASED: 1988
LABEL: EPIC
GENRE: INSTRUMENTAL ROCK

PERSONNEL: JOE SATRIANI (ALL)

UK CHART PEAK: N/A

US CHART PEAK: N/A



BACKGROUND INFO

'Surfing With The Alien' was the title track and one of three singles released from Joe Satriani's second album, the groundbreaking *Surfing With The Alien*.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Joe Satriani is one of the best known players in the shred guitar scene. Shredders like Satriani, Steve Vai and Paul Gilbert have incredible technical ability and usually play distorted guitars in an instrumental setting. Satch (as Satriani is known) paid for his first album using a credit card and played most of the instruments himself on it and on *Surfing With The Alien*, his second full-length release. Satriani admitted he was worried that after *Surfing...* was released his record company would cancel his contract.

When it was released as a single, 'Surfing With The Alien' didn't chart, but it and 'Satch Boogie' were both played heavily on American rock radio stations and the album went to number 29 on the American album charts. This was unusual for an instrumental guitar album and testimony to Satch's songwriting and arranging skills, which set him apart from many of his contemporaries in the shred scene. He needn't have worried after all.

NOTES

Before he was famous Joe Satriani worked as a guitar teacher. He taught first in New York where a young Steve Vai was among his students. Later, when Satch moved to California, he was teacher to a number of players who went on to become famous themselves. His list of former students includes Kirk Hammett (Metallica), David Bryson (Counting Crows), Larry LaLonde (Primus), jazzer Charlie Hunter and Alex Skolnick (Testament). Once Steve Vai had made a name for himself, playing with Frank Zappa and David Lee Roth, he spoke enthusiastically about his former teacher, which helped create interest in Satch as he was embarking on his own solo career. The pair later collaborated on the G3 series of guitar concerts.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

Also from the album *Surfing With The Alien*, 'Midnight' is played entirely by two-hand tapping (where the fingers of the fretting and picking hands are used to tap chords and melodies). Satriani's third album *Flying In A Blue Dream* (1989) is also considered one of his best and the title track is one of his most popular tunes. The song 'Cool #9' from the album *Joe Satriani* (1995) features some impressive use of wah and whammy effects.

