Great Jazz Standards Anthology For Guitar (Book & CD) (Jazz Masters Series)
Fred Sokolow is a prolific performer, educator, author, transcriber, and arranger whose books and videos have covered a wide range of styles including jazz, blues, rock, country, bluegrass, and even 5-string banjo. This anthology provides you with solid, clear, and accessible solo arrangements for 14 of the most memorable jazz standards. Every song is presented with the guitar part, written in standard notation and tablature, combined with the lead sheet for analysis. All arrangements are demonstrated on the included CD. Titles are: A Certain Smile * I'm Getting Sentimental over You * I Don't Stand a Ghost of a Chance * I Surrender, Dear * Just Friends * Laura * Moonglow * On Green Dolphin Street * The Shadow of Your Smile * Stairway to the Stars * Star Dust * Stars Fell on Alabama * Take Five * What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life.

This was the book that got me into jazz guitar. As a fingerstyle guitarist with little real technique, I was looking for a book of jazz standards. I couldn’t read well in either standard notation or in tablature. Fred's book contains not only standard notation and tablature, but also chord diagrams for every half note. For me, at the time that I was using the book, that was the ticket. Although some of the arrangements initially seemed challenging, the availability of standard notation, tablature, and chord diagrams, along with the accompanying CD, made everything accessible. Some of it was daunting because the chord voicings felt weird at first, but they were laid out with such utter clarity
that they inspired me to work hard rather than to slack off and be discouraged. Here’s the wonderful thing about this book. You can memorize his arrangements. You’ll learn dozens - perhaps hundreds - of new chords. He’s very intelligent and artful about chord substitution in his arrangements. Once you memorize them, you’ll see that most of the time - maybe 95%, he’s spot on and has wonderful musical ideas to bring to an arrangement. Then comes the fun part - the jazz part. You see that included above Fred’s arrangements are good, old fashioned, simplified chord names. If you have someone to play with, you can accompany them nicely and also take the lead with the chord melody. If you don’t, the chord names invite you to practice improvising - arpeggiating, substituting, playing modally, etc. Another reviewer commented on Fred’s occasional use of open voicings. Put concisely, any professional guitarist of any genre uses a library of open as well as barred voicings. Fred does, too. He does a great job with it.

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