Earl Scruggs: A Player’s Guide with Bill Evans

A Peghead Nation 8-Lesson Workshop

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Week One: Earl with Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys, 1946-47

Recommended reading

“Earl Scruggs and Foggy Mountain Breakdown: The Making of an American Icon,” by Thomas Goldsmith, 2019, University of Illinois Press, week one pages 27-43.

Recommended listening & viewing: Week One

Earl’s influences

“Don’t Let Your Deal Go Down,” by Charlie Poole and his North Carolina Ramblers, 1925 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgpyFRwEWa4>

“The Man Who Wrote Home Sweet Home Never Was A Married Man,” Parker and Woolbright

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27VbHEfjcPs>

VIDEO: Snuffy Jenkins demonstrates clawhammer, two-finger and three-finger picking in this video with Pappy Sherrill. Includes a fragment of “Cumberland Gap.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgDYKoOeSOE>

“Sally Ann / Sally Goodin’ (medley),” Snuffy Jenkins from “American Banjo: Three-Finger and Scruggs Style,” (Smithsonian Folkways) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIBCwfSYiKI>

Earl with Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys 1946-47

Live Grand Ole Opry recordings with Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys. Newly discovered 12- minute audio, from at least two different performances, includes “Ain’t Nobody Gonna Miss Me” and “Cripple Creek.” Great audio quality in comparison to many of the live cuts currently available. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bB_BjzOA10>

“Will You Be Loving Another Man” with Bill Monroe, recorded September 17, 1946: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFSOqiUxdtk>

“Blue Grass Breakdown” with Bill Monroe, recorded October 27, 1947: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gay1I_pNOU>

“Molly and Tenbrooks (The Race Horse Song),” with Bill Monroe, recorded October 28, 1947: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pK3kfq4y6Q>