1401. La Playa

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

In 1963 "La Playa" appeared on an EP (forerunner of LP) with four songs. The playing group was called "Los Mayas" and came from Belgium. La Playa was so popular that you could hear it on the radio at least five times a day, during the time of offshore radio. (!!) Who were these "Mayas"? After an idea of record manager Jean Kluger, with the world hit "Maria Elena" by Los Indios Tabajaras, he asked the Belgian guitarist and composer Jo van Wetter to do something similar.

Jo van Wetter wrote the "La Playa" song in half an hour and soon a group of studio musicians went into the studio. The focus was on the talent of Jo Van Wetter, not only as an excellent guitarist, but also as a versatile composer.

„Los Mayas" in Ton-Studio 1963, on the Guitar Jo van Wetter

The problem was to think of a group name and give the song a title. In Jean Klüger's office there was an issue of Time magazine. One article was about the Mayas and another article had the main title La Playa and so the single was named and released.

Over the last 50 years, over 20 famous cover versions by many well-known artists have been released. "La Playa" is a UInstrumetal hit par excellence!

Yamaha Tyros 5 By Rico

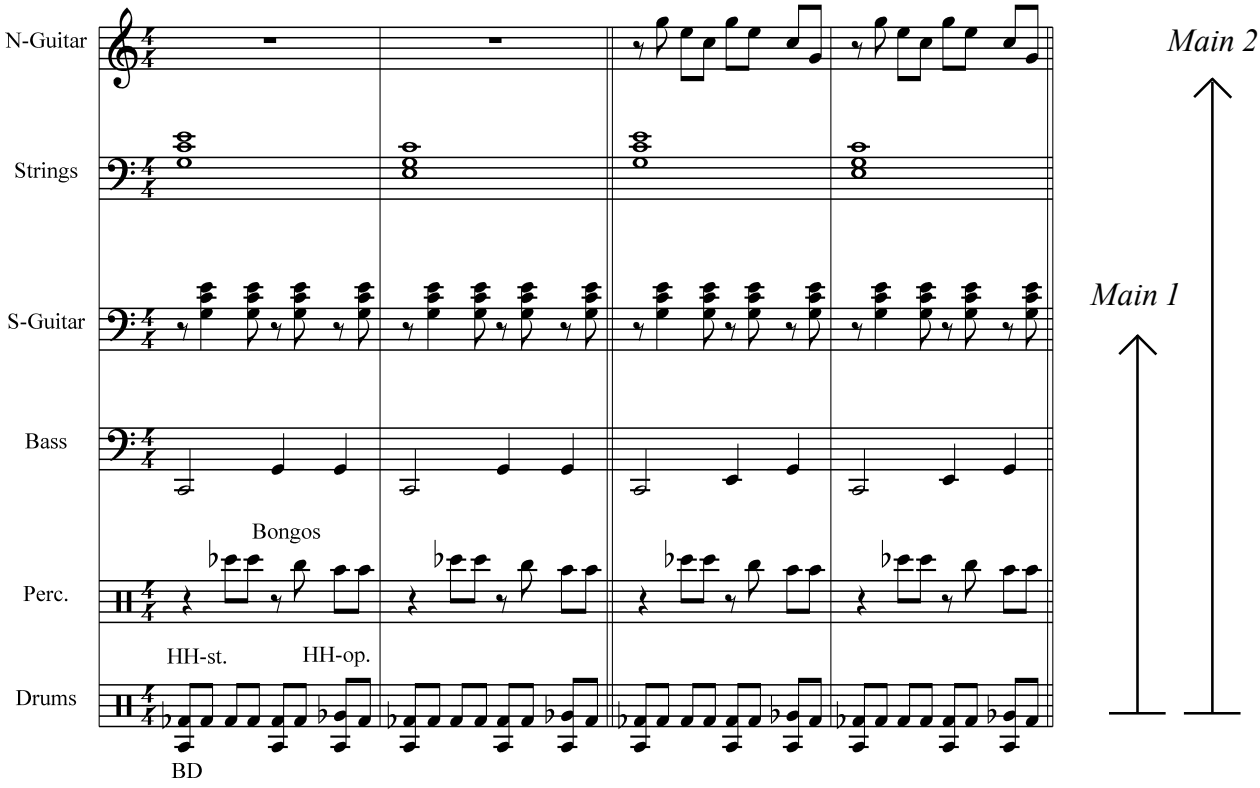
The first cover version came in 1964 from the French guitarist Claude Ciari and is still considered "The Original" today. He was born in 1944 in Nice on the French Riviera. He started playing guitar at the age of 11, and at the age of 16 he was competent enough to join a rock group, Les Champions, which together with Jean-Claude Chane (singer), Alain Santamaria (guitar), Daniel Kaufman (bass guitar) and Willy Lewis (drums) on the lead guitar presented itself to Claude Ciari. The most popular version in Germany came in 1968 from JAMES LAST within his "Guitar á GoGo"-LP-series.

Yamaha Tyros 5 by Rico. "Rico" is a very dedicated YouTube player, who has already uploaded many well-known works to YouTube. Although I always prefer the originals, a MWP user drew my attention to the Rico version of "La Playa" - and I was immediately thrilled! So here we play a simple live recording with Tyros and the style "Beguine" with tempo 96. Especially fascinating sound his introductions and ornaments, the so-called "Fill Ins", which I missed with all the others! If someone knows more about RICO personally, please mail me!

(C) Nov. 2018 by S. Radic
MK387
MWP-Nr.1401

La Playa Yamaha Tyros 5 By Rico auf YouTube
Beguine Tempo 96
Edit: S. Radic

Beguine, T=96



Programming instruction

Here is a Yamaha standard style from the successful Tyros-5 series, a beguine with tempo 96. Normally we always program something "special" - here is the opposite: We program something very simple, because this style captivates only by placing the rhythmic beguine phrase of the guitar in the foreground "crystal clear". The bass plays two different phrases: in Main1 this is only the bass-bass with the change of fifths. In the Main2, the bass simply plays the chord tones of the basic chord, whereby the first note is always twice as long as the others. The strings pad is always to be found in Advanced - and in Maan2 a nylon-guitar chord decomposition in eighths is added, which can also be heard in the intro and in all transitions. RICO's YouTube recording with this style has been online for 4 years and has had 303,864 hits to date! My highest number for the recording of "Placi zemljo" (a hit from Serbia, with special Balkan style) has only managed 13.221 hits in 7 years....something I do wrong...