

Mel Bay Presents



13 Easy Brazilian Choros for Solo Guitar

By Celso



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Mel Bay Presents

13 Easy Brazilian Choros for Solo Guitar

By Carlos Almada

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Rubens Tubenchlak: Guitar

Flávio Henrique Medeiros: Revision and fingering of score

Recorded at Omega Studio (Niteroi)

Engineered by
Carlos Castanheira

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0



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Introduction

The *choro* is a very important Brazilian instrumental style, originated in Rio de Janeiro during the late 1800's. It is thus a typical *carioca* style (*carioca* means from Rio de Janeiro). Originally, the word "choro" was used to name instrumental groups composed of flute, *cavaquinho* (a kind of Brazilian ukulele) and two guitars (later on, several kinds of percussion instruments were included as well). These groups used to play in *carioca* high society parties in a peculiar syncopated interpretation pieces based on the fashionable dancing styles of that time: polkas, mazurkas, waltzes, waltzes and scottisches, all of them imported from Europe. Those rhythms were later "nationalized" by composers, such as Joaquim Callado, Chiquinha Gonzaga and Ernesto Nazareth, among others, and were combined with the African rhythm of the lundu. This mixture resulted in new styles with a very strong Brazilian accent, although their names were initially identical or similar to the original European styles (polca, mazurca, *valsa* and *xótis*).

The great popular success of this new Brazilian way of playing the old rhythms, and its gradual and natural evolution, has brought up other rhythmic variants: the Brazilian tango, the maxixe (that has also contributed to the creation of the samba) and, finally, the *choro*, which became a specific style around 1930.

Besides the aforementioned names, the great *choro* composers are Sátiro Bilhar, Anacleto de Medeiros, Patápio Silva, Pixinguinha, Jacob do Bandolim, Benedito Lacerda, Luis Americano, Zequinha de Abreu, João Pernambuco, K-Ximbinho, among others. Nowadays, it is very common to also consider as *choro* the related styles, such as the polca, the Brazilian tango, the maxixe, the *xótis*, and even the ternary ones like the mazurca and the *valsa*.

The main features of *choro* are:

1. Tempo: usually, the *choros* are written in medium to fast tempos (from 80 to 120 beats per minute).
2. Time signature: 2/4 (like almost all Brazilian rhythms).
3. Form: AA-BB-A-CC-A (i.e., the well-known rondo form, inherited from the European polka). Parts B and C are always written in related keys (for instance, if part A is in C major, parts B and C could be in G major and A minor, and if part A is in A minor, parts B and C will probably be in C major and A major).
4. Melody/Harmony: the melodic lines are almost always based on arpeggios of diatonic triads, secondary dominant and diminished seventh chords, scale-like passages, and chromaticism (perhaps the most characteristic *choro* hallmark).
5. Rhythm: this is undoubtedly the greatest difficulty for the beginner. The typical rhythmic figurations of the *choro* are strongly syncopated, and they are used in several of the possible variations for groups of eighth and sixteenth notes, many times with the addition of ties and dots.

As one can easily imagine, it would be very hard for a guitar student to start reading the scores of the traditional *choro* repertoire, almost all of them with many technical difficulties. It would be much better if he could start with some easier pieces – of intermediate level – in order to be presented to the *choro* language in a more gradual and appropriate manner. That is the main goal of this book. It has thirteen studies (in the thirteen most used keys for *choro* guitar) written in a reduced form (two parts instead of the conventional three), and in the principal stylistic variants of the *choro*: besides *choros*, there are *polcas*, *maxixes*, Brazilian tangos and *xótis*. The more common

and characteristic rhythmic figurations are present in each of the studies as the principal generator of motives. Also aiming at the simplification of execution, all studies were composed with only two voices (melody and bass) and with no chords (although harmonies are quite evident due to the melodic particularities of choro).

Regarding the interpretation, I think that the enclosed CD will help a lot.

Carlos Almada

This book is dedicated to my son, Roberto.





Choro in C

Carlos Almada

1. 2.

8

T 1 0 . . . 1 0 2 3 1 0 0

A . . . 0 2 3 0 0 2 3 0 0

B . . . 0 0 4 0 0 0 3 0

4

The image shows a musical score for guitar. The top part is a standard staff notation with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 12/8. The bottom part is a tablature for a six-string guitar, showing the fingerings and string names (T, A, B) for each note. The tablature corresponds to the notes in the staff above it.

12

T 0 3 0 3 0 3 1 0 2 0 0 1 2 3 2 2 1 3 2 0 3 2 0 0 3

D. S. al Coda

Sheet music and tablature for guitar. The top staff shows a melodic line with various note heads and stems. The bottom staff is a tablature with six horizontal lines representing the strings, with numbers indicating fingerings and positions.

Sheet Music Fingerings:

- Measure 1: 2, 1
- Measure 2: 4, 1
- Measure 3: 3
- Measure 4: 7

Tablature Fingerings:

- Measure 1: 16, 1
- Measure 2: 2
- Measure 3: 2, 1
- Measure 4: 2

Tablature Fret Positions:

T	2	1	3	2	3			
A	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
B				2			3	

Coda Ø

Coda ♫

18

rall.

T 1 0 1 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 3 4 0 1 0 3 1
A 3 0 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 3 4 0 3 0 3 1
B 3 0 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 3 4 0 3 0 3 1



Choro in A minor

Carlos Almada

= 64

3 2

§

T 0 3 2 1 2 2 0 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 1 2 1 0 1
A 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 1 1 0 3
B 0 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 1 1 0 3

Cl -

4 3

4

T 0 1 0 2 0 2 0 4 3 2 2 2 2 0 3 1 1 0 3
A 2 2 0 0 1 2 1 0 5 2 0 4 3 0 0 2 0 3 2 0 4 3
B 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 3

3

4

T 1 0 0 0 0 2 1 0 5 2 0 1 0 3 2 0 1 0 0 3 0
A 2 2 0 0 1 2 1 0 5 2 0 4 3 0 0 2 0 3 2 0 4 3
B 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 0 0 4 3

2

1

2

T 1 2 0 0 0 2 1 0 5 2 0 1 0 3 2 0 1 0 0 3 0
A 2 4 4 2 4 2 0 4 2 0 4 2 1 0 4 0 0 4 2
B 4 4 2 4 2 0 4 2 0 4 2 1 0 4 0 0 4 2

3

4

3 2 1

4 # 1

2

Fine

T 1 3 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
A 0 3 3 2 0 3 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 3 2 1 3 0
B 3 2 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 4 0 3 2 1 3 0

4

T 3 3 0 1 3 0 1 2 3 0 0 3 3 1 1 4 4 0 2 3 2

A B 3 2 0 3 2 0 1 1 4 4 0 2 3 2

2

T 3 3 0 1 3 1 0 3 2 2 1 2 3 3 2 1 0 0 0 0 1 3 0

A B 2 4 0 0 3 2

2 4

T 3 3 3 5 3 1 0 1 3 4 0 0 1 3 0

A B 3 2 0 3 2 0 3 2 1

1 2 3 4

T 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 3 0 3 1 0 2 1 2

A B 0 3 3 1 2 0 3 4 0

1. 2.

D. S. al Fine

T 3 3 0 0 1 0 2 3 1 3 0 1 0 1 3 2 0 3 2

A B 3 3 0 0 2 0 2 3 1 3 0 3 2 0 4



Choro in G

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 52$

T 0 1 2 | 3 0 0 0 1 2 3 0 0 0 1 2 3 3 2 0 0 3 2

The image shows a musical score for guitar. The top part is a standard staff notation with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a time signature of common time (indicated by a 'C'). The bottom part is a tablature for a six-string guitar, showing the fingerings for each note. The tablature is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure starts with a dotted quarter note followed by a eighth note (labeled '2'), then a sixteenth note followed by a eighth note (labeled '2'). The second measure starts with a dotted quarter note followed by a eighth note (labeled '4'), then a sixteenth note followed by a eighth note (labeled '4'). The third measure starts with a dotted quarter note followed by a eighth note (labeled '3'), then a sixteenth note followed by a eighth note (labeled '2'). The fourth measure starts with a dotted quarter note followed by a eighth note (labeled '2'), then a sixteenth note followed by a eighth note (labeled '2'). The tablature below shows the corresponding fingerings: 4, 3, 1; 3; 2; 2.

3 3
1.
4
2.

7

3 2 0 0 3 2 2 0 3 0 1 2 .
A 0 4 2 2 0 0 3 2 2 0 3 0 1 2 .
B 0 3 2 3 2 0 3 2 3 2 0 3 2 .

Fine

13

T 0 1 0 2
A 1 0 0 0
B 3 3 3 0

0 4 0 0 1 0 4 3 2 0 0 0

4 3 2

17

T 3 2 1 3 0 0
A 2 0 0 0 3 2 0 3 4
B 2 0 0 3 3 2 0 3 0

0 0 3 1 0 2 3 2 0 3 0

20

T 3 4 0 0 1 0 2 2 0 1 0 3 2 0 3
A 3 0 2 0 3 3 3 0 4 3 1 0 3 2 0 3
B 3 0 2 0 3 3 3 0 4 3 2 2 0 3 2 0 3

4

24

D. S. al Fine

T 0 0 3 1 0 3 1 3 4 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 2
A 0 0 3 2 1 0 3 1 3 4 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 2
B 2 0 3 2 1 0 3 1 3 4 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 2



Choro in E minor

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 64$

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is a standard five-line staff with a treble clef, indicating the vocal or lead part. The bottom staff is a six-line staff with a bass clef, representing the guitar's neck. The tablature below the staff shows the fret positions for each note. The music is in common time (indicated by a '2'). The vocal line starts with eighth-note pairs, followed by eighth-note pairs with grace notes, and then eighth-note pairs again. The guitar part features eighth-note chords and single notes. Fingerings are indicated above the staff, such as '2 3' and '2 3 1'. Measures 1 through 3 are shown.

The continuation of the musical score and tablature follows the same structure. The vocal line continues with eighth-note pairs and grace notes. The guitar part includes eighth-note chords and single notes. Fingerings like '2 3 1' and '2 3' are used. Measures 4 through 6 are shown.

To Coda

The coda section begins with a change in key signature to E major (indicated by a sharp symbol). The vocal line consists of eighth-note pairs and grace notes. The guitar part includes eighth-note chords and single notes. Fingerings like '2 3 1' and '2 3' are used. Measures 7 through 9 are shown.

The final section of the musical score and tablature continues in E major. The vocal line consists of eighth-note pairs and grace notes. The guitar part includes eighth-note chords and single notes. Fingerings like '2 3 1' and '2 3' are used. Measures 10 through 12 are shown.

13

T 5 5 5 4 5 2
A 4 4 3 2 1 2 0
B 0 0 3 0

16

T 4 2 0 1 2 4 2 0 0 0 0
A 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

19

T 7 7 6 5 4 2 4 2 0 5 3 2 3 2 0
A 0 0 0 4 2 4 2 0 3 2 3 2 0 0
B 0 0 0 4 2 2 0 2 2 4 3 2 0 0

22

T 4 4 2 0 4 2 4 2 0 4 2 4 2 1 4 3 2 0
A 0 0 1 4 2 2 0 2 2 4 2 1 4 3 2 0
B 0 0 1 4 2 2 0 2 2 4 2 1 4 3 2 0

25

2.

D. C. al Coda

T 0 2 4 2 1 4 3 2
A 2 4 2 1 4 3 2
B 0 0 1 4 2 2 0 2 2

Coda ♪

T 0 0
A 2 0
B 0 0



Choro in F

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 70$

T
A
B
3 2 1 | 0 3 2 3 1 | 3 0 3 2 0 3 1 | 3 0 3 2 0 3 1 | 3 0

Cl

T
A
B
1 3 2 1 | 3 2 1 0 3 2 3 1 | 3 0 3 2 0 3 1 | 3 0

1. | 2.

T
A
B
3 2 0 3 1 | 2 1 1 | 2 3 4 | 3 2 1 1 | 0 4

10

T
A
B
3 0 0 0 1 | 0 1 2 0 3 2 | 0 3 0 0 0 3

1.

13

14

T 1 2 0 2 0 3 2 0

A

B

1

16

15

T 1 0 3 2 0 3 2 0

A

B 0 3 0 3

1

19

18

T 2 0 0 2 3 1 1 0 0 3 0 0 3 0 0 3 0 1

A

B 1 0 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3



Choro in D minor

Carlos Almada

BPM = 70

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

- M1: 4, 3
- M2: 3, 2, 4
- M3: 1, 1
- M4: 2
- M5: 0

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	2	3	2
A	0	2	0
B	1	3	0

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	3	1	0
A	3	2	0
B	0	4	0

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	0	1	0
A	3	2	0
B	4	3	2

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	1	0	1	0
A	3	2	3	4
B	0	2	1	0

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	0	1	3	0
A	3	2	0	2
B	0	4	0	2

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	1	0	1	0
A	3	2	0	3
B	0	1	3	4

CIII -----

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	3	1	0
A	3	2	3
B	0	4	0

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	2	0	2
A	0	0	3
B	1	3	0

String Octave Fret Fingerings:

T	5	3	3
A	3	1	0
B	0	4	0

1

T 3 1
A 0 2 0 3
B 0 4 1 0 1 0 2 3

17

T 1 5 1 0
A 0 3 1 0
B 3 2 3 3 3 2

20

T 3 2 1 0 1 1 5 5 4 3 2
A 3 2 3 3 0 3 0
B 0 1

23

1.

2.

D. S. al Coda

T 5 3 1 0 3 1 0 1 1 0
A 3 2 3 0 1 0 1 1 0
B 0 1 3 3 0 1

Coda Φ

26

T 3 0 3
A 0 0 0
B 0 0 0



Choro in D

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 58$

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is a standard five-line staff with a treble clef, indicating pitch. The bottom staff is a guitar tablature staff with six horizontal lines representing the strings, labeled T (top) and B (bottom). The tablature includes numerical fret numbers and hand positions (1, 2, 3, 4) above the strings. The music features eighth-note patterns and some grace notes indicated by vertical stems.

1.

This section continues the musical pattern established in the first staff. It includes two measures of music followed by a repeat sign and the beginning of a new section labeled '1.'

2.

This section continues the musical pattern established in the first staff. It includes two measures of music followed by a repeat sign and the beginning of a new section labeled '2.'

This section concludes the piece. It includes two measures of music followed by a vertical bar line and the word "Fine". Below the bar line is a final set of guitar tablature, showing the end of the piece.

14

T 2 0
A 2 3 0
B 0 3

17

T 3 2 3
A 1 0
B 4

20

D. C. al Fine

T 3 2 3
A 1 0 3
B 0



Choro in B minor

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 74$

Tunings: T (Treble), A (Alto), B (Bass)

Tunings: T (Treble), A (Alto), B (Bass)

Tunings: T (Treble), A (Alto), B (Bass)

To Coda

Tunings: T (Treble), A (Alto), B (Bass)

4

17 18 19 20

T A B T A B T A B

5 0 7 6 7 6 5 2 5 4 3

1

21 22 23 24

T A B T A B T A B

2 3 0 4 2 0 4 4 3 2 0 3 4

2

25 26 27 28

T A B T A B T A B

2 0 5 3 2 5 4 2 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 2 0 2 3 2 0

2 2 2

D. S. al Coda

29 30 31 32

T A B T A B T A B

0 3 2 0 4 2 1 4 4 4 0 4 2 0 2 2 0 4 2

Coda ♀

33 34

T A B T A B

7 7 0 4 0 2



Choro in B flat

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 66$

T 1 1 | . 3 3 3 4 | 3 2 | 1 1 4 2 |
A | . 1 0 1 | 1 0 1 | 3 |
B | | | | |

To Coda ♦

T 3 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 3 2 3 | 2 3 |
A 3 0 1 0 | 4 | 3 2 3 | 2 3 |
B | | | | |

1. | 2.

T 8 1 1 | 3 1 6 | 4 1 0 3 1 | 3 2 1 0 3 0 |
A 3 1 2 3 | 6 | 4 1 0 3 1 | 3 2 1 0 3 0 |
B | | | | |

12.

T 4 1 0 3 1 | 3 1 0 3 | 4 1 0 3 1 | 3 2 1 0 3 |
A 1 0 3 1 | 1 0 | 4 1 0 3 1 | 3 2 1 0 3 |
B | | | | |

16

T 4 3 1
A 1 0 1
B 1 3 3

1 2 3 3 3 3 1 1 3 4

2 3 4 4 3 2

1/2 CI 4 4

3

20

T 1 1 1 4 3 2 1 0 3
A 0 1 1 1 1
B 1

24

T 4 3 1
A 1 0 1
B 1 3 1 1 1 1 0 0 3 1 0 1 1 3 1 1

1 3 4 3

28

T 1 1 1
A 0 1 3 1 1 0 0 3 1 1 0 1 1 3 1 1

32

D. S. al Coda

T 2 1 3 0 2 3
A 0 3 1 3 0 3
B 1 1 1 1 1 1

Coda Φ

34

T A B

3 4 3 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 4

37

T A B

3 3 3 1 3 5 6 6 7 3 6 3

*This page has been
left blank to avoid
awkward page turns*



Choro in G minor

Carlos Almada

1 = 62

1. **2.**

Fine

16

T A B

20

T A B

24

T A B

28

T A B

1.

2.

D.C. al Fine



Choro in A

Carlos Almada

$\bullet = 72$

T A B

T A B

T A B

4 2

T A B

1. 4 2 2 1 4 0 1 7.

2. 4 2 2 4 1 1 7 5 2 4 0

T A B

D. S. al Fine

1

T A B



Choro in C minor

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 66$ CIII

T 4 4 4 3 4 1 | 0 | 1 1 1 3 0 0

T 3 3 3 | 3 2 3 0 2 | 3 0 0 3 3

T 4 4 4 0 1 2 | 1 3 1 | 4 1 1 0 1

T 3 | 3 1 | 4 1 1 0 1

T 1 1 1 1 4 1 | 0 0 3 3 1 0 | 2 1 1 1 1 1

1. (1st time only)

2.

To Coda ♦

T 1 1 1 1 1 1 | 4 4 3 3 | 1 0 1 2

T 4 4 0 0 | 1 3 2 | 1 3 2

T 1 3 3 3 1 | 1 0 3 4 | 1 3 3 1

T 1 1 1 1 | 1 0 3 4 | 1 1 1

16

T
A
B

1 0 3 4
1 0 4
3 0 3
3 1

1 4

CI ————— 1

1.

19

T
A
B

4 4 4
0 3
1 0 4
1 3
1 3 1
8 4 3 2
1 0 4 3
3 0

CI ————— 3
2 4 4
1 0 4 3
2 4 4

2.

D. C. al Coda

22

T
A
B

1 3 4
1 0 4
3

Coda ♀

23

T
A
B

2 3 0 1 3 0
3 3 3 3 3
3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

1/2 CI —————
1 2 1 2 1 2
3 1 2 3 1 2
1 2 3 1 2 3

CIII —————
2 3 2 3 2 3
1 3 2 1 3 2
3 4 4 4 4 4

rall.

26

T
A
B

3 2 0 3
4 5 3
1 0 1 3

2 4
3 3
2 4

Choro in E

Carlos Almada

$\text{♩} = 74$

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

T
A
B

1

T A B

2 0 0 0 4 3 2 1 3 0 1 2 4 3 2 1 0 2 3 4 2 1 2

1.

2.

T A B

4 4 2 2 1 0 7 0 4 0 1 0 7 0 2 3

4

2 4

T A B

4 0 2 4 0 0 0 0 2 3 4 2 1 2

1

2 4 1

T A B

1 2 0 2 3 4 0 2 4 0 0 0 0 2 3

3

2

4 1 4

T A B

4 4 4 2 4 2 4 2 4 0 0 0 0 2 3