

# Fleetwood Mac

SONG TITLE: ALBATROSS

ALBUM: N/A

RELEASED: 1969

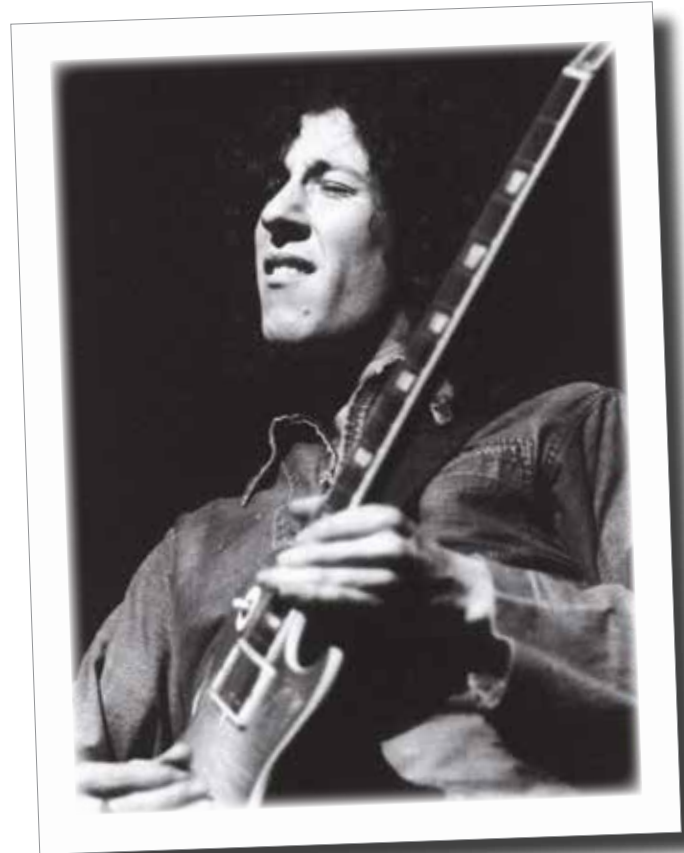
LABEL: BLUE HORIZON

GENRE: BLUES

PERSONNEL: PETER GREEN (GTR)  
DANNY KIRWAN (GTR)  
JOHN MCVIE (BASS)  
MICK FLEETWOOD (DRUMS)

UK CHART PEAK: 1

US CHART PEAK: 104



## BACKGROUND INFO

'Albatross' was a UK number 1 for Fleetwood Mac in 1969. While it has been included on countless compilations it was never released as part of an album. This delicate instrumental is set against a simple backing and features guitarist Peter Green's perfect phrasing and feel. The main melody uses triads on the top three strings before moving to lower single notes. The pedal-steel style harmony bends in the bridge section of the track are flawlessly executed. Numerous overdubs (parts added later in the recording) add to the laid back, floating mood of this impressive guitar track.

## THE BIGGER PICTURE

There are two distinct phases to Fleetwood Mac's existence. In their first incarnation Green was the front man and they were one of the leading exponents of British blues through the sixties. The second and, commercially at least, more successful era added, after a few short term changes, vocalist Stevie Nicks, vocalist and guitarist Lindsey Buckingham and vocalist and keyboard player Christine McVie to the core rhythm section of Fleetwood and McVie. This classic line up went on to record *Rumours* which is one of the best-selling albums of all time. While Fleetwood

Mac's popularity increased exponentially in the second half of their career, the early lineup has just as much merit. In fact, many argue that the blues material has much more for guitarists to get their teeth into.

## NOTES

After a long hiatus due to illness, Peter Green re-emerged with Peter Green's Splinter Group. This lineup toured extensively and recorded albums through the late 1990s and up until 2004. After another break he resumed touring in late 2009.

## RECOMMENDED LISTENING

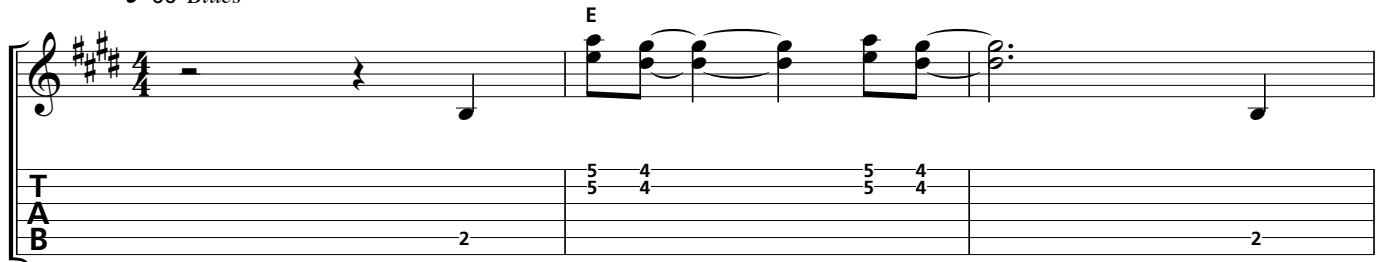
Another of Fleetwood Mac's early singles, 'Need Your Love So Bad', is often held up as the finest example of Green's playing. The song's two solos are a masterclass in blues phrasing, feel and dynamics. Aside from its sublime solo, 'Black Magic Woman' (covered later by Santana) features Green skillfully answering his vocal with lead phrases in a classic blues call and response fashion. On 'I Loved Another Woman' from 1968's *Fleetwood Mac*, Green uses his lead playing to create a memorable melody that is re-stated through the song.

# Albatross

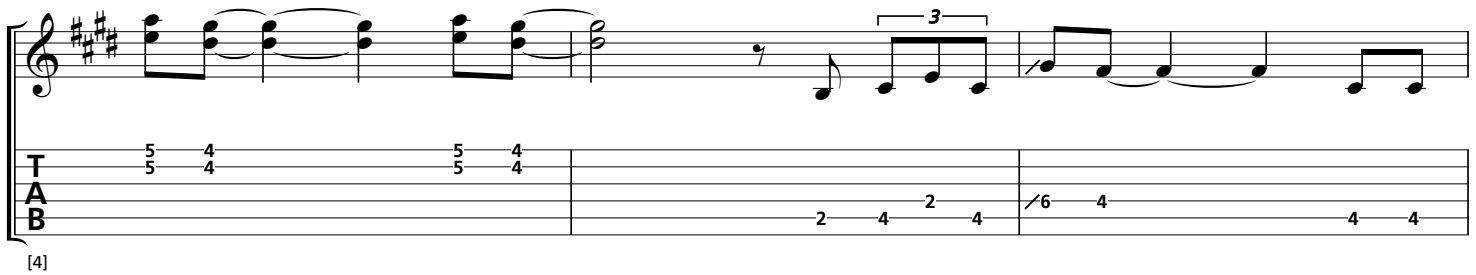
Fleetwood Mac

Music by Peter Green

  
♩ = 66 Blues

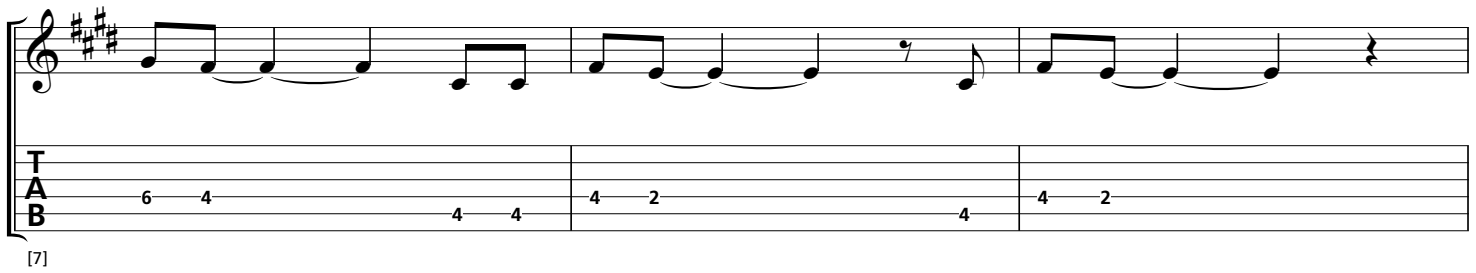


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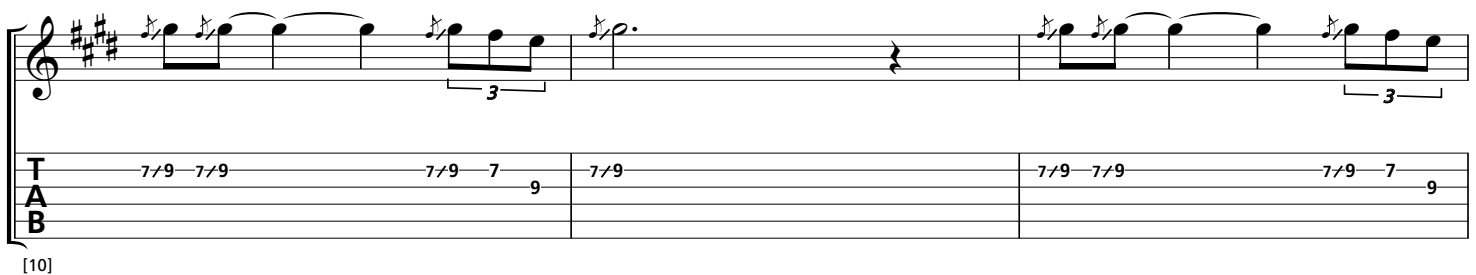
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# Red Hot Chili Peppers

SONG TITLE: CALIFORNICATION  
ALBUM: CALIFORNICATION  
RELEASED: 1999  
LABEL: WARNER BROS.  
GENRE: ALTERNATIVE ROCK

PERSONNEL: ANTHONY KIEDIS (VOX)  
JOHN FRUSCIANTE (GTR)  
FLEA (BASS)  
CHAD SMITH (DRUMS)

UK CHART PEAK: 16  
US CHART PEAK: 37



## BACKGROUND INFO

'Californication' was the fourth single from the album of the same name. The main riff is based around two simple chords that Frusciante wrote to complement singer Anthony Kiedis's vocal. The sparse part is perfectly complemented by Flea's busier, high-register bassline. Combined with its video game-inspired music video this is one of the band's biggest hits and still receives regular airplay.

## THE BIGGER PICTURE

The Chili Peppers have worked with legendary producer Rick Rubin throughout their most successful period. Known for his 'hands-off' approach where he allows the bands he works with space to breathe without imposing his personal style on them, the Rubin/Chili Peppers partnership saw the band break through with 1991's *Blood Sugar Sex Magik* and rise to mega-stardom courtesy of four more highly regarded albums.

## NOTES

The album *Californication* was nearing completion when Rubin and Frusciante decided some of the songs

would benefit from extra backing vocals and set about adding some to the virtually completed tracks. As a result, songs like *Otherside* and *Scar Tissue* feature some excellent, though a little rough and ready, vocal parts performed by Frusciante. This sound was refined and perfected on subsequent releases.

## RECOMMENDED LISTENING

Although he's well-known for his funk rock stylings, Frusciante's playing is much deeper than the Chili Peppers' greatest hits might suggest. On his first recording with the band, *Mother's Milk*, Frusciante's tone is heavily distorted and his punky influences can be heard on songs like 'Magic Johnson'. His Hendrix influences can be heard on 'Pretty Little Ditty' and 'Taste The Pain'. His sound mellowed a little on *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*. Using an array of vintage gear, Frusciante recorded one take solos and was primarily concerned with capturing the correct 'feel' rather than pursuing perfect performances. You can hear this on 'Funky Monks' and the sublime solo on 'Could Have Lied'. By *Californication*, he was quoted as saying that he was less interested in getting his parts down in one take and took a new approach to his playing, often drawing inspiration from 80s sequencer parts. 'Parallel Universe' is an excellent example of this.

