

The Apprentice

The Apprentice is arguably the most musically homogeneous of the 15 albums in the D.L.Stieg catalog. All but 2 of the 14 songs are played in fingerstyle or fingerpick style, and all but 2 employ alternate tunings. The guitar music is generally more complex and more challenging than on any of the other 14 albums, and the lyrics tend toward serious contemplations on weighty matters. This collection of songs, more so than any other album in the catalog, is a product of my youth, at least relatively speaking, since all the songs were written and recorded before my 26th birthday in 1974. Actually, the 14 songs in The Apprentice account for less than half of my total output of original songs between 1969 and 1974, and 17 other songs written during this period are distributed among the 6 other original albums in the catalog.

The songs in The Apprentice were grouped together precisely because they share to a large degree a common persuasion in several respects, including musical, lyrical, and even psychological. The title itself is a double entendre, since the apprenticeship refers to musical development as well as to the mastery of the many powerful emotions that are alluded to in the lyrics. The complex and somewhat dark mood of this album contrasts markedly with the character of the novella of the same name, which is considerably lighter. You can [click here](#) to review a brief synopsis of The Apprentice, or for a free download of the first two chapters (17 pages), or to purchase the entire novella (86 pages) for \$2.