
Too Young To Die (1993)



Transcription Notes: 'Too Young to Die' was recorded using a Warwick Streamer Stage I 4 string, in fact the first bass Stuart purchased upon joining the band. As well as the new bass, this was also the first track Stu recorded with Jamiroquai, which is usually wrongly believed to be 'When You Gonna Learn'. The line on 'When You Gonna Learn' was actually Andrew Levy, founder and bass player of the Brand New Heavies. The bass line Levy recorded was often completely changed when Stu played it live.

Stuart's bass playing on this track oozes funk and is instantly recognised as a classic Jamiroquai bass line. The Verse sections should be played with as much attack as possible. You can hear the dirty funk sound of the bass on the track – that is what you are looking to aim for. Stuart recommends a nice blend of both pick-ups with a midrange boost.

Try keeping the notes as short as possible, and make sure those sixteenth note rests come through really clearly. The vibrato on the C note is very subtle, but also very integral to the overall sound of the Verse.

Stu recalls trying out many different ideas for the Chorus section. Many of these ideas were heavily influenced by the sixteenth note funk style of Jaco Pastorius, one of Stuart's personal bass heroes. Although he recalls many of his ideas were a little too busy and complex for the context of the song, the Chorus that did go to tape is still clearly influenced by the Jaco's unique playing.

Be wary of the slight variations in the Middle 8, and the syncopation of the unison breakdown. Keep those notes tight and watch out for the accents, it's very important to nail those. If you listen carefully to the track, you can hear abrupt cuts in the last Chorus which result in the same bass fill being played twice in a row towards the end. This may be due to the track being edited at a later stage for a shorter version. The original recording was over 10 minutes in length! This was edited down to six minutes for the album version and around three minutes for the single.

Track Info: This was the band's first official release after signing with Sony Records. 'When You Gonna Learn' was first released in 1992 on the Acid Jazz label. Sony later re-released it in late 1993. The UK release of 'Too Young To Die' reached number 10 in the charts.