

Flatpicking Guitar Magazine

Free Lesson

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God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman

by Mickey Abraham

Hello and welcome once again to *Flatpicking Guitar Magazine's* free lesson portion of our monthly newsletter. This month I'd like to get you into the holiday spirit with an easy yet moving rendition of the traditional Christmas tune "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman."

I have always loved the introspective minor key Christmas songs and this amazing melody is no exception. For this lesson I chose not to get too wild with variations or anything complex -- rather this arrangement focuses on the melody of the tune as it would be sung.

There are many chord options for a tune like this. My chords are influenced by what I think someone like Tony Rice would play. To me, staying on the Am chord for the first eight measures is very bluegrass. If one were to bust out bluegrass solos over this groove I feel these chords lend themselves well to improvisation. The bulk of the chords are in fact just the I, IV, and V chords in the key of A minor.

I know you will enjoy picking through this simple arrangement of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." As always, if you have any questions or comments on this e-lesson just drop me a line at michabraham@comcast.net

God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman

Arranged by Mickey Abraham

1 Am

Musical notation for measures 1-5. Measure 1 is a whole rest. Measure 2 starts with a quarter rest. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Measure 5 has a half note G4 with a slur over it.

TAB

TAB notation for measures 1-5. Measure 1 is a whole rest. Measure 2 starts with a quarter rest. Fingering: 0, 2, 0, 0, 3, 1, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 3, 0, 0, 0.

6

Musical notation for measures 6-9. Measure 6 starts with a quarter note G4. The melody continues: A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Measure 9 has a half note G4 with a slur over it.

TAB notation for measures 6-9. Fingering: 0, 0, 3, 1, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 3, 0, 0, 0.

10 Dm C Am Dm

Musical notation for measures 10-13. Measure 10 starts with a quarter note G4. The melody continues: A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Measure 13 has a half note G4 with a slur over it.

TAB notation for measures 10-13. Fingering: 1, 3, 0, 1, 3, 5, 0, 3, 1, 2, 0, 1, 3, 1, 3.

14 Am E Am Dm

Musical notation for measures 14-17. Measure 14 starts with a half note G4. The melody continues: A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Measure 17 has a half note G4 with a slur over it.

TAB notation for measures 14-17. Fingering: 0, 1, 0, 0, 3, 1, 0, 2, 1, 0, 2, 3, 1, 3.

18 Am E Am

Musical notation for measures 18-21. Measure 18 starts with a quarter note G4. The melody continues: A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Measure 21 has a half note G4 with a slur over it.

TAB notation for measures 18-21. Fingering: 0, 1, 3, 5, 0, 3, 1, 0, 2, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0.