

Nine Very Easy Guitar Duets

David Raleigh Arnold

Introduction

The top parts of these duets are intended for teaching beginners. The bottom parts are not aimed at any particular level. I hope that they are fun to play, and fun to play with.¹

1 Long Lulu

by David Raleigh Arnold

The musical score for "Long Lulu" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The top staff is the melody, and the bottom staff is the accompaniment. The piece begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and repetitive, while the accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The piece ends with a "fine" marking.

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32

41

2 Aura Lee

5

9

13

17

3 Guitar Reel

by David Raleigh Arnold

8

6

12

18

fine

D.C.

4 Silent Night

Grüber 1830, Aguado 1826

8

7

p.

18

19

25

31

37

43

5 Tom Dooley

real folk tune

In the accompaniment, the thumb is always on every beat. Fingers play off the beat. That's the style.

The musical score for "Tom Dooley" is presented in a two-staff format. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into six systems, each containing a melody line and an accompaniment line. The accompaniment is characterized by a steady, rhythmic pattern where the thumb plays on every beat and the fingers play off the beat. The melody line consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, often with slurs. The score includes measure numbers 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 27. A "fine" marking is placed at the beginning of measure 16, and a "D.C." (Da Capo) marking is at the end of measure 27.

6 Kumbaya

slow version of African song

Thumb down, thumb up, and single note is used in flamenco. It's called *alzapua*.

Musical score for 'Kumbaya' in 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of two staves each. The upper staff is the melody, and the lower staff is the accompaniment. The melody includes a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure of the first system. The accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line with chords. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

7 Silent, Silent

old German tune

Musical score for 'Silent, Silent' in 2/4 time. The score consists of three systems of two staves each. The upper staff is the melody, and the lower staff is the accompaniment. The melody is simple and features a 'fine' marking at the end of the first system. The accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line with chords. The piece concludes with a double bar line and 'D.C.' (Da Capo) marking.

8 GuitarGo

by David Raleigh Arnold

“S” means slap the top or the strings, so the pattern is thumb down, thumb up, slap, thumb up.

The musical score is presented in six systems, each with two staves. The top staff of each system is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 4/4. The bass line in the bottom staff of each system features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs and 'S' markings above them, indicating slapping. The melodic line in the top staff consists of eighth-note runs. The score includes various musical notations such as accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals), slurs, and dynamic markings like '8' and '7'.

9 Soupy

by David Raleigh Arnold

The musical score for "Soupy" is presented in two staves, likely representing a piano and a bass guitar. The piece is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into seven systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 29). The melody in the upper staff is characterized by eighth-note patterns and occasional ties. The lower staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with dense chordal textures, often using octaves and a consistent rhythmic pulse. The piece concludes with a final whole note chord in the 29th measure.