

The First Noel

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Measure 1 starts with a whole rest. Measure 2 begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Fingering numbers (0, 2, 1, 3, 1, 0) are shown above the notes. The bass line features triplets of eighth notes and quarter notes.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5 is marked with a '5' above the staff. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a circled '3'. A slur over measures 7 and 8 is labeled $\frac{2}{6}$ CIII. The bass line includes quarter notes and a triplet of eighth notes.

Musical notation for measures 9-14. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. Fingering numbers (0, 4, 0, 1, 3, 2, 0, 4, 1, 0, 0, 0, 4, 2, 0) are shown above the notes. The bass line features quarter notes and eighth notes.

Musical notation for measures 15-17. Measure 15 is marked with a '15' above the staff. A slur over measures 16 and 17 is labeled $\frac{2}{6}$ CIII. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass line includes quarter notes and eighth notes.

Musical notation for measures 18-21. Measure 18 is marked with a '18' above the staff. A slur over measures 20 and 21 is labeled $\frac{3}{6}$ CV. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. The bass line features quarter notes and eighth notes.

Musical notation for measures 22-24. Measure 22 is marked with a '22' above the staff. A slur over measures 23 and 24 is labeled $\frac{2}{6}$ CII → $\frac{2}{6}$ CIII. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass line includes quarter notes and eighth notes. The piece ends with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket labeled '1.'.

2

Musical score for guitar, measures 27-31. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 27 begins with a first ending bracket labeled "2." above the staff. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4 (4th fret), A4 (2nd fret), B4 (open), and C5 (open). The bass line consists of quarter notes: G3 (open), F#3 (open), E3 (open), and D3 (open). Measure 28 continues the melody with quarter notes: C5 (open), B4 (open), A4 (2nd fret), and G4 (4th fret). The bass line continues with quarter notes: C3 (open), B2 (open), A2 (open), and G2 (open). Measure 29 features a change in the bass line, with a first ending bracket labeled "2/6 CII" above the staff. The melody has quarter notes: G4 (4th fret), A4 (2nd fret), B4 (open), and C5 (open). The bass line has quarter notes: G3 (open), F#3 (open), E3 (open), and D3 (open). Measure 30 has a second ending bracket labeled "2/6 CIII" above the staff. The melody has quarter notes: C5 (open), B4 (open), A4 (2nd fret), and G4 (4th fret). The bass line has quarter notes: C3 (open), B2 (open), A2 (open), and G2 (open). Measure 31 concludes the piece with a final chord consisting of G4 (4th fret), B4 (open), and D5 (open) in the treble, and G3 (open), B2 (open), and D3 (open) in the bass.

The First Noel

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first measure starts with a *mf* dynamic. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The guitar tablature below the staff shows fret numbers for the strings.

mf

TAB

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5 is marked with a '5' above the staff. A $\frac{2}{6}$ CIII chord is indicated above the staff in measure 7. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The guitar tablature below the staff shows fret numbers for the strings.

5

$\frac{2}{6}$ CIII

TAB

Musical notation for measures 9-14. Measure 9 is marked with a '10' above the staff. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The guitar tablature below the staff shows fret numbers for the strings.

10

TAB

Musical notation for measures 15-18. Measure 15 is marked with a '15' above the staff. A $\frac{2}{6}$ CIII chord is indicated above the staff in measure 16. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a 3/4 time signature. The guitar tablature below the staff shows fret numbers for the strings.

15

$\frac{2}{6}$ CIII

TAB

18

TAB: 0 2 2 0 1 | 3 3 2 0 0 2 3 5 | 7 5 5

22

TAB: 5 3 2 0 | 3 0 2 3 3 5 | 0 0 2 . | 6 0 2 0 0 5 0 0 2 . | 3

27

TAB: 0 3 2 0 | 3 0 2 3 3 5 | 0 3 3 5 0 | 0 2 0 3

Musical Tip Sheet

The Big 5:

1. Reduce work with posture and a positive attitude
2. Troubleshoot - Everything should be easy
3. Breathe
4. Trust yourself to play accurately and musically inspired (instead of judging)
5. Always play as a gift to yourself and others

The 7 Steps to Learn Any Piece:

1. Make small sections
2. Know all the notes and musical markings
3. Clap and count the rhythm aloud
4. Play the right hand alone, counting aloud
5. Play the left hand alone, counting aloud
6. Play hands together, pausing when needed (no mistakes!)
7. Play hands together slowly in rhythm, counting aloud

Musical Starting Points:

1. Decide which notes are melody (probably stems up), and play the others quieter
2. Connect all melody notes smoothly (no gaps)
3. When a musical line or melody goes up in pitch, get quieter
4. When a musical line or melody goes down in pitch, get louder
5. Don't let the high notes stand out (any note higher than the ones before and after)

Practice Tips:

1. Before slowing down or speeding up (rubato) master it at a steady pace.
2. For tricky spots, state out loud exactly what the problem is, in every detail.
3. Memorize every piece (even if you don't, you'll learn it faster if you try)
4. Have a purpose behind each repetition (so you don't ingrain bad habits).
5. Video yourself for performance practice, and to hear what is working.

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