

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

England

Brightly

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time and begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and guitar-specific fingering and fretting instructions (e.g., 3, 2, 0, 1#) for both hands.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The notation continues with the same key signature and includes various fingering and fretting instructions for the guitar.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. This section includes a trill-like figure in measure 10, indicated by a horizontal line with a dash and the number 4. The notation includes fingering and fretting instructions.

Musical notation for measures 13-15. Measure 13 features a $\frac{6}{6}$ Chord (Cl) above the staff. The notation includes fingering and fretting instructions.

Musical notation for measures 16-19. Measure 16 features a $\frac{2}{6}$ Chord (Cl) above the staff. Measure 17 includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The notation includes fingering and fretting instructions.

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Am E7 Am Dm Am F E

Measures 1-4 of the piece. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The first system shows the treble clef staff with notes and rests, and the guitar tablature below it. Chords are indicated above the staff: Am, E7, Am, Dm, Am, F, and E.

5 Am E7 Am Dm Am F E A7

Measures 5-8 of the piece. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the staff: Am, E7, Am, Dm, Am, F, E, and A7.

9 Dm Am Em Am G

Measures 9-12 of the piece. The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, Am, Em, Am, and G.

13 C F C Am E7 Dm

Measures 13-16 of the piece. The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, F, C, Am, E7, and Dm.

16

G C G Am rit. E7 Am

T
A
B

Practice Tip Sheet

The Big 5:

1. Reduce work with posture and high dynamic energy
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 Main Practice Areas:

1. Technique - Abilities, Movements, Chords, Scales, Patterns, Exercises, etc.
2. New Notes - One new piece of music at a time
3. Tricky Spots - Detailing small sections of pieces
4. Repertoire Maintenance - Pieces you already know
5. Sight-Reading practice - note recognition/playing; clapping/counting rhythms

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, taking corrective pauses (no mistakes!)
7. Play hands together in rhythm, with slow metronome

Musical Starting Points:

1. Know 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 those 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 (blind repetitions are lazy practice).
5. Video yourself for performance practice and to hear what is and is not working.

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