

# O Christmas Tree

**Firmly**

Germany

First system of musical notation (measures 1-4). The piece is in 3/4 time. The first measure starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5. The bass line consists of quarter notes: G2, F2, E2, D2. A trill is indicated above the G4 in the first measure. A breath mark (HB | ) is placed above the C5 in the fourth measure.

Second system of musical notation (measures 5-7). The melody continues with quarter notes: D5, C5, B4, A4. The bass line continues with quarter notes: C2, B1, A1, G1. A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic is indicated at the start of the system. A trill is indicated above the D5 in the fifth measure.

Third system of musical notation (measures 8-10). The melody continues with quarter notes: G4, F4, E4, D4. The bass line continues with quarter notes: F2, E2, D2, C2. A forte (*f*) dynamic is indicated at the start of the system. Trills are indicated above the G4 in the eighth and tenth measures.

Fourth system of musical notation (measures 11-14). The melody continues with quarter notes: C4, B3, A3, G3. The bass line continues with quarter notes: B1, A1, G1, F1. A forte (*f*) dynamic is indicated at the start of the system. A trill is indicated above the C4 in the thirteenth measure. A breath mark (HB | ) is placed above the A3 in the fourteenth measure.

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Musical notation for the first system, measures 1-4. Chords: C, G7, C, F, Dm (with barre), G7, C. Dynamics: *f*. Includes guitar tablature (TAB) below the staff.

Musical notation for the second system, measures 5-6. Chords: C, F, Dm. Dynamics: *mf*. Includes guitar tablature (TAB) below the staff.

Musical notation for the third system, measures 7-9. Chords: G7, C, C, G7. Dynamics: *f*. Includes guitar tablature (TAB) below the staff.

Musical notation for the fourth system, measures 10-12. Chords: C, F, Dm (with barre), G7, C. Includes guitar tablature (TAB) below the staff.

# 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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