

In the Bleak Midwinter

arrangement for guitar duo

Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)

The musical score is arranged for guitar duo in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of two staves each. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melodic line in the treble clef with fingerings 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 0 and a bass line with triplets and chords. Chords VII and V are indicated. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody with fingerings 1, 2, 4, 1, 1, 2, 1, 4, 4, 4, 2 and includes a $\frac{3}{8}$ CV annotation. The third system (measures 9-12) shows a melodic line with fingerings 4, 3, 4, 2, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 2 and a $\frac{3}{8}$ CVII annotation. The fourth system (measures 13-16) includes a *rit.* marking and a $\frac{3}{8}$ CV annotation. The score concludes with a double bar line.

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Chords: G VII, Em, Am, D7

The first system of the musical score consists of two systems of staves. The top system has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music. The first measure is marked with a 'VII' above the G chord. The second measure is marked with an 'Em' chord. The third measure is marked with an 'Am' chord. The fourth measure is marked with a 'D7' chord. Below the treble staff is a TAB staff with fret numbers: 7, 8, 10, 7, 5, 8, 5, 7, 5, 0, 5, 7, 7, 0. The bottom system of the first system has a treble clef and contains four measures of music. Below it is a TAB staff with fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 1, 2, 0, 2, 1, 2.

Chords: G VII, Em, C, D7, G

The second system of the musical score consists of two systems of staves. The top system has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music. The first measure is marked with a 'VII' above the G chord. The second measure is marked with an 'Em' chord. The third measure is marked with a 'C' chord. The fourth measure is marked with a 'D7' chord. Below the treble staff is a TAB staff with fret numbers: 7, 8, 10, 7, 5, 8, 5, 7, 5, 3, 3, 0, 0. The bottom system of the second system has a treble clef and contains four measures of music. Below it is a TAB staff with fret numbers: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 0, 0, 0.

2

9

C $\frac{3}{8}$ CV

Em G D⁷

T
A
B

T
A
B

13

G VII Em rit. C D⁷ G

$\frac{3}{8}$ CV

T
A
B

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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