



an introduction to
CELTIC GUITAR
4 HOUR ONLINE WORKSHOP

SUNDAY 26th JANUARY 2025
11am-4pm (GMT) *cresc.*

www.celticguitarworkshop.com

'An Introduction to Celtic Guitar'

January 26th 2025

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Workshop Description

In this four hour online Celtic guitar workshop we will be introducing the joy, skills and satisfaction of playing Traditional Celtic Music on the guitar. The workshop aims to be accessible to guitar players new to the style and looking for a quality, supportive, informative and friendly introduction into playing this beautiful music on the guitar. To get you playing we will be focusing on learning a variety of great, popular and accessible Scottish and Irish session tunes (*reels, jigs, airs*) combined with learning important foundational Celtic Guitar skills and techniques.

During the workshop we will be learning the tunes (*melodies*) and the accompaniment (*chords/rhythms*) along with helpful exercises and technique advice shared throughout. Using a flatpick (*plectrum*) and at a comfortable pace we will be learning the tunes together phrase by phrase. This will support getting the tunes under your fingers and all importantly into your ears, and played on the guitar. Then, to help bring out the tunes, we will be learning how to play a solid and supportive traditional accompaniment on the guitar using appropriate chords, techniques and rhythms.

To aid learning there will be access to a Full Workshop Replay after the Workshop along with Downloadable Practice Audio and Notation/Tablature. The Workshop also comes with a Comprehensive Handout with all of the tunes, accompaniment and techniques covered in the Workshop, and more!

The Workshop Includes

- **4 Hours of Group Tuition**
- **Supportive Learning Environment**
- **Experienced, Friendly & Qualified Tutor**
- **Foundational Celtic Guitar Skills & Techniques**
- **Variety of Popular Session Tunes (Airs, Reels, Jigs)**
- **Flatpicking Technique**
- **Phrase by Phrase Tune Learning**
- **Accompaniment Technique**
- **Celtic Rhythms & Chordal Accompaniment**
- **Live Fiddle Player to Play Along to (*for the Accompaniment Section*)**
- **Standard Tuning**
- **Comprehensive Workshop Handout**
- **Downloadable Practice Audio For Continued Learning after the Workshop**
- **Full Workshop Video Replay after the Workshop**
- **Flexible Pricing Structure to Suit Different Incomes**
- **Suitable for Guitar Players new to learning Traditional Celtic styles on the Guitar**
- ***1 Month FREE Membership of Brand New Celtic Guitar Workshop Patreon!**

Guitar Tablature

In this handout you will see the tunes written out in both *Standard Notation* and *Guitar Tablature*. **Guitar Tablature** is written out underneath *Standard Music Notation* as **six horizontal lines** with numbers written on the lines in different places, and also with regular short vertical lines written out throughout the music. The word **TAB** written out vertically is short for **TABLATURE** (*Image Below*).

The six horizontal lines each represent one of the six strings on the guitar. The bottom line of the *Guitar Tablature* represents the low 'E' (**Thickest**) string. The top line of the *Guitar Tablature* represents the high 'E' (**Thinnest**) string. With the rest of the horizontal lines each representing the remaining four strings on the guitar.

High E String
B String
G String
D String
A String
Low E String

1 2 3

0 0 2 4 0 4 2 3 3 3

(Play Open D String)

Bar Line

(Play Fret 4 on the D String)

(Play Fret 3 on the B String)

Double Bar Line

The **numbers** written out in different places on the **horizontal lines** each indicate **what fret to play on the guitar** along with the horizontal line showing **what string to play**. The short vertical lines throughout the music are all **bar lines** which show the spacing between bars of music (*Image Above*).

In summary the six horizontal lines each represent the six guitar strings, the numbers indicate what fret to play on the guitar and on what string, and the short vertical lines are bar lines showing the spacing between the different bars of music.

Standard Notation

Standard Notation is written out above the *Guitar Tablature*. It consists of five horizontal lines, vertical bar lines and a variety of different symbols. Learning to read *Standard Notation* although not essential is a very helpful musical skill. If you would like to learn how to read *Standard Notation* I would recommend the free website [musictheory.net](https://www.musictheory.net). They have a brilliant series of lessons teaching how to read *Standard Notation*, you can find their website at:

<https://www.musictheory.net/lessons>

Alternate Picking

As a general rule of thumb, I would recommend using *alternate picking* as much as possible when flatpicking tunes. *Alternate picking* is a very economical way to play lead guitar and can help you play lead guitar and melodies more smoothly and efficiently, it involves alternating between downstrokes and upstrokes of the pick when playing.

Picks/Plectrums

The type and size of guitar pick or plectrum that each guitar player uses is very individual to them and their personal preference. You want to find a guitar pick or plectrum that is comfortable to use and sounds good for the music that you want to create. I would recommend trying out a number of different types and sizes of picks or plectrums to see what one(s) you like best. As a general note thicker and heavier picks or plectrums create a denser or slightly duller tone and thinner picks or plectrums create a brighter or sharper tone.

The picks I use are:

Jim Dunlop Nylon .73mm ~ Accompaniment/Strumming

Dava Grip Tips Nylon Plectrum (Green) ~ Lead/Melody

Workshop Video Replay

To access the Video Replay for the Workshop please visit the link below by either clicking on the link or copy and pasting it into your browser. It will take you to a course page within the Celtic Guitar Workshop website. When prompted enter the password “Workshop22”. To begin the replay click on the '**Start Learning**' button.

Workshop Video Replay

<https://celticguitarworkshop.com/classes/an-introduction-to-celtic-guitar-4-hour-online-workshop-sunday-26th-jan-2025/>

Password: Workshop22

Practice Audio Tracks & Notation/Tablature

To access the *Practice Audio Tracks* and *Notation/Tablature* for the Workshop visit the **Workshop Video Replay** outlined above. Enter the password “Workshop22” and click on '**Start Learning**'. Within each session you can access and download the *Practice Audio Tracks* and *Notation/Tablature* for that session by clicking on the '**Exercise Files**' tab at the top of each session page.

The *Practice Audio Tracks* are also available to stream and listen to within an audio player underneath each video on each session page.

The *Notation/Tablature* for all of the tunes and chords are also available at the end of this handout.

Recommended Listening

Listed below are several playlists that I have created on Spotify and YouTube of a rich variety of Celtic Guitar playing. These are fantastic playlists for inspiration, enjoyment, and to explore and discover some of the brilliant Celtic Guitarists and Celtic music available across the world.

Click on the links below or copy and paste the url links to open each playlist.

Spotify Playlist Links

Celtic Flatpicking Guitar Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0KJQrBZslG6VQNojPacspu?si=KQwVBZCZQsOY3D1eZuYQtw>

Celtic Fingerstyle Guitar Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2wpjC3k8kfaP4Eb8nFtpdF?si=4BsxDqqQRfysiqUpuV0Wtw>

Trad Guitar Accompaniment Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1GNZcduajO7i5qi2Lq7jWy?si=GFtYnFisToG4etg70L-v-g>

A Great Variety Of Traditional Celtic Music (Instrumental)

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/440DXhT76ESLRRRbMUhuOt?si=LH1YJmsaRjOKzKRc7Lsb4Q>

Celtic Harp Playlist

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0a8xVSevEjYuWbINuP99H?si=8tdcdsXmTfyDbvrGxNIMgg>

YouTube Playlist Links

Celtic Flatpicking Guitar Playlist

[https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLI2kp63B3qs4JiFg4rIPfs0RF_qs2UFw5&si=BSeJQJXUzhmUYaoL](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI2kp63B3qs4JiFg4rIPfs0RF_qs2UFw5&si=BSeJQJXUzhmUYaoL)

Celtic Fingerstyle Guitar Playlist

[https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLI2kp63B3qs74IWrfWqvIYP5KOyLI2_r&si=RRJcaMhX0KVuRcB_](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI2kp63B3qs74IWrfWqvIYP5KOyLI2_r&si=RRJcaMhX0KVuRcB_)

Trad Guitar Accompaniment Playlist

[https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLI2kp63B3qs7b6QTG6q9hWsHRT4oRQ_4Y&si=1o7Va9T20T6f0sPW](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI2kp63B3qs7b6QTG6q9hWsHRT4oRQ_4Y&si=1o7Va9T20T6f0sPW)

Spotify Workshop Playlist

Below is a link to a playlist on Spotify titled ***Celtic Guitar Workshop: 'An Introduction to Celtic Guitar' Online Workshop Jan 26th 2025***. The playlist offers performances of all of the tunes listed in this Handout by a variety of different artists and bands with some of the tunes featured more than once. Listening to the tunes in their musical context will help you to integrate them, and to learn and play them better. You can find the Spotify playlist on the link below:

Spotify Workshop Playlist

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6cCpO3qYKUoXAYwNA6QeB7?si=3a-IEaWITJcf__18uWoZkw

As well as this playlist I would also recommend searching for other performances and recordings of any and all of the tunes in this Handout to hear different performances and variations on how they're played by other musicians, bands and on other instruments. Have a look on YouTube and Spotify to see what you can find!

Warm Up Exercise

A great and very simple warm up exercise to practice regularly is to place your *first finger* of your fretting hand on the *first fret* of the low '**E**' string and play that note. Then place your *second finger* on the *second fret* of the low '**E**' string and play that note. Then place your *third finger* on the *third fret* of the low '**E**' string and play that note. Then place your *fourth finger (pinky finger)* on the *fourth fret* of the low '**E**' string and play that note.

After you have played all four notes on the low '**E**' string move onto the '**A**' string and repeat the same pattern. Place your *first finger* on your fretting hand on the *first fret* of the '**A**' string and play that note. Place your *second finger* on the *second fret* of the '**A**' string and play that note. Place your *third finger* on the *third fret* of the '**A**' string and play that note. Then place your *fourth finger (pinky finger)* on the *fourth fret* of the '**A**' string and play that note. Now repeat the same pattern for all the remaining strings. Playing frets 1,2,3,4 on the **D** string, **G** string, **B** string and high **E** string. Use alternate picking for this exercise alternating between down strokes and up strokes throughout.

In *Guitar Tablature* and *Standard Notation* the warm up exercise would look like the image below:

The image shows the musical notation for a guitar warm-up exercise. It is presented in two systems, each with a standard notation staff and a guitar tablature staff below it. The time signature is 4/4. The first system covers measures 1, 2, and 3. The second system covers measures 4, 5, and 6. The tablature staff is labeled with strings T, A, B, and B. The exercise consists of playing frets 1, 2, 3, and 4 on each string in sequence, with alternate picking (downstroke, upstroke) for each note.

System 1 (Measures 1-3):

- Measure 1: Fret 1 on T, A, B, B strings. Picking: □, V, □, V.
- Measure 2: Fret 2 on T, A, B, B strings. Picking: □, V, □, V.
- Measure 3: Fret 3 on T, A, B, B strings. Picking: □, V, □, V.

System 2 (Measures 4-6):

- Measure 4: Fret 4 on T, A, B, B strings. Picking: □, V, □, V.
- Measure 5: Fret 1 on T, A, B, B strings. Picking: □, V, □, V.
- Measure 6: Fret 2 on T, A, B, B strings. Picking: □, V, □, V.

The aim of this warm up exercise is to play each note as clearly as possible with no fret buzz or muting. Once you feel comfortable playing this exercise slowly with nice clear sounding notes you can begin to slowly speed the exercise up. You can practice this exercise using a metronome starting at a slow tempo and then gradually speeding up. This exercise will warm up your fingers, give you good practice technique using all four fingers, and help you to play melodies more freely on the guitar.

Celtic Guitar 'Essentials' Tuition Videos

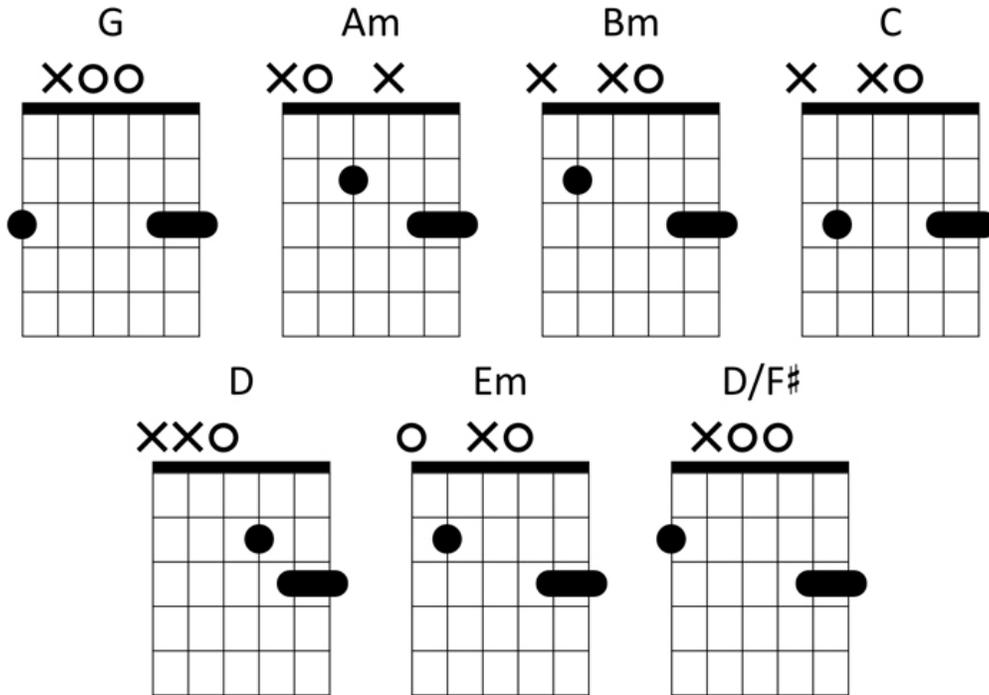
Below is a link to a playlist on YouTube called 'Celtic Guitar Essentials'. In this playlist you will find some helpful tuition videos sharing essential concepts for learning Celtic Guitar. You can access the link by clicking on the link below or copy and pasting into your browser.

Celtic Guitar 'Essentials' Video Playlist

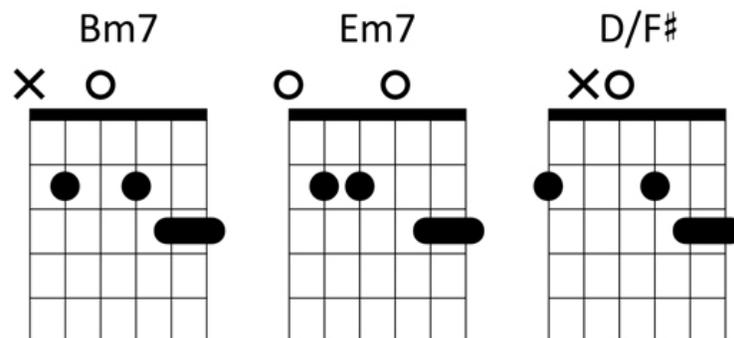
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI2kp63B3qs6R9i86LbrYkmmx6-9ATR5V&si=bM7050qRVtBRxKNo>

G Major Chord Scale

(Trad Chords in Open Position)

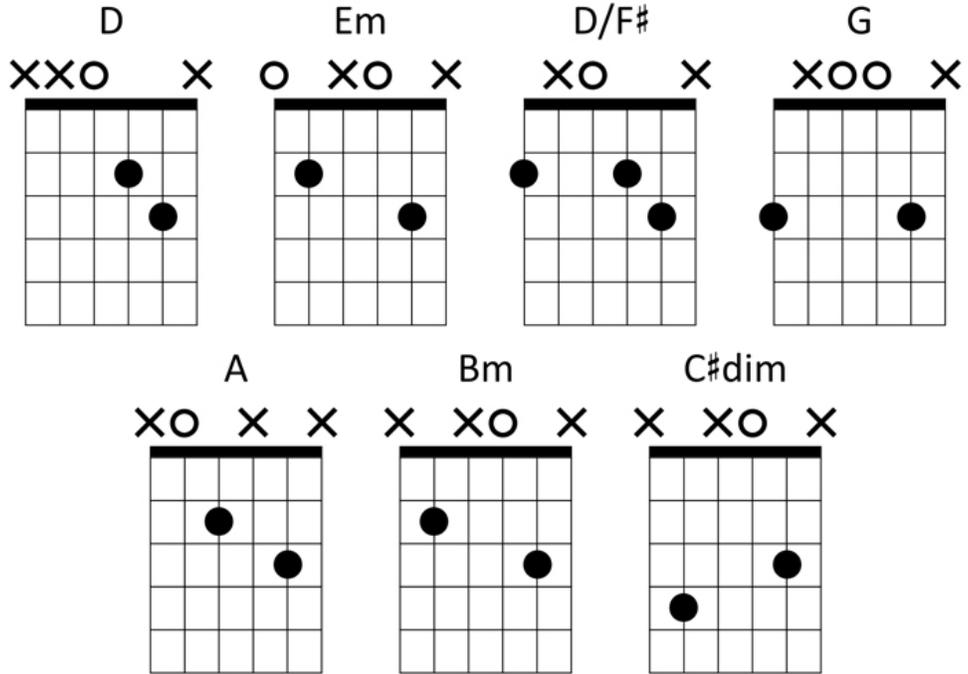


(Alternative Chords)

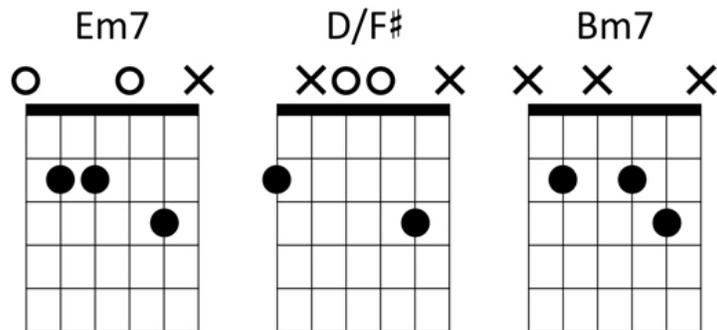


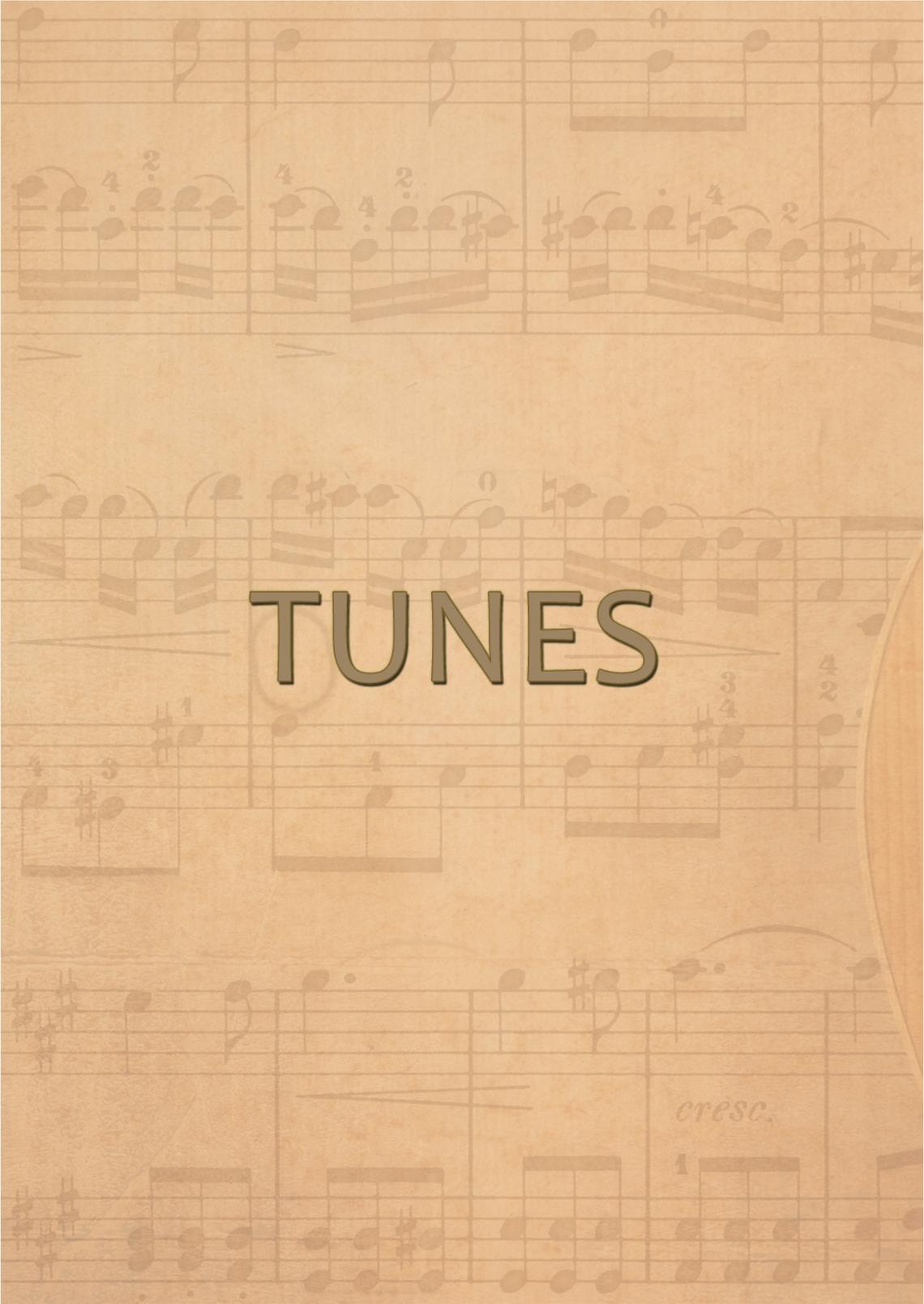
D Major Chord Scale

(Trad Chords in Open Position)



(Alternative Chords)



The background of the page is a faded, sepia-toned musical score. It features multiple staves with various musical notations, including notes, rests, and fingerings. Some of the visible notations include the numbers '4', '2', '3', and '1', which likely represent fingerings for a stringed instrument. The word 'cresc.' is also visible in the lower right quadrant of the score. The overall aesthetic is that of an antique or vintage music manuscript.

TUNES

Skye Boat Song

Traditional Scottish Song Air
Arranged by Wilson Noble

A

1 G Em D

2 0 2 0 0 0 2 0 2 3

5 G C G D

0 2 0 2 2 0 (0)

9 G Em D

0 2 0 0 0 2 0 2 3

13 G C G D

0 2 0 2 2 0 (0)

8

Em

Am

17 18 19 20

Em

C

Em

21 22 23 24

Am

25 26 27 28

Em

C

Em

D

29 30 31 32

Waiting for the Federals

Traditional Scottish Reel
Arranged by Wilson Noble

A

1 G

2

3

4 C D G

5

6

7 C D G

8

9

B

10

11

12

1. 2.

Em G

13

7 0 0 2 | 3 5 7 5 3 3 0 | 3 3 0 3 0 2 0

16 C D G

17 18

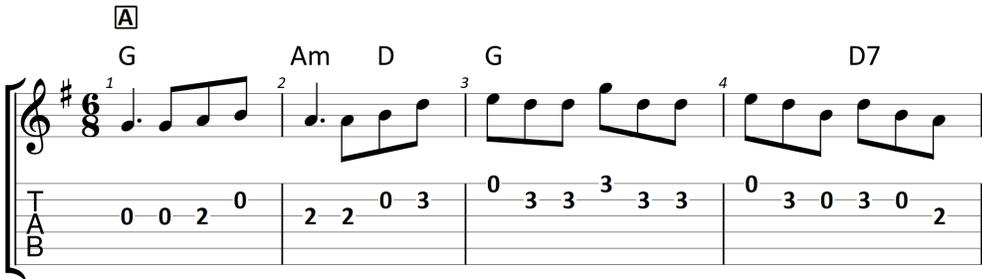
2 4 2 5 2 4 | 5 5 4 3 | 5 5 5 2

1. 2.

The Kesh Jig

Traditional Irish Jig
Arranged by Wilson Noble

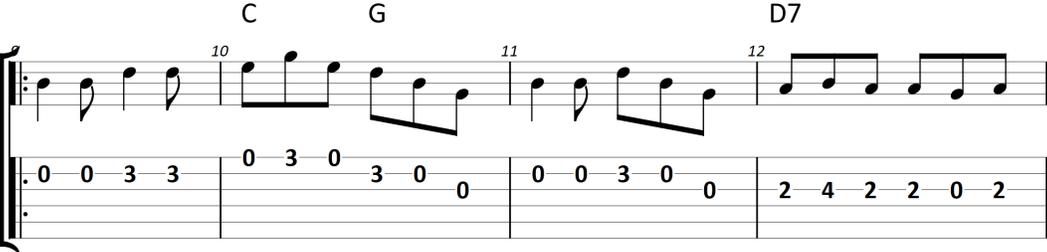
A



1 G 2 Am D 3 G 4 D7

5 G 6 Am D 7 G 8 D G

B



10 C 11 G 12 D7

13 G 14 C G 15 D G

Out on the Ocean

Traditional Irish Jig
Arranged by Wilson Noble

The musical score for 'Out on the Ocean' is presented in a system of four staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The second staff is a guitar tablature with six lines, labeled 'TAB' on the left. The third and fourth staves are standard notation with a treble clef. The score is divided into measures and includes chord markings (G, C, D) and measure numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). A boxed 'A' is above the first measure, and a boxed 'B' is above the ninth measure. The tablature includes numbers 0, 2, 3, and 5, representing fret positions. The standard notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and repeat signs.

13 G D/F# Em C D

0 2 0 3 | 0 3 0 3 0 2 | 0 2 0 0 2

16 G

0 0 0 0

The Fairy Dance

Traditional Scottish Reel
Arranged by Wilson Noble

A

3 0 | 2 2 3 2 2 3 | 2 2 3 2 3 0 3

3 D G A D

2 2 3 3 2 0 3 | 2 2 0 2 3 3 0 | 2 2 3 2 2 3

6 A D G A D

2 2 3 2 3 0 3 | 2 2 3 3 2 0 3 | 2 2 0 2 3 0 2 3

B

9 G A D G

5 5 7 7 7 5 | 8 7 8 5 5 3 | 2 2 3 3 2 0 3

12 A D G A

2 2 0 2 3 | 0 2 3 | 5 5 7 7 7 5 | 8 7 8 5 5 3

15 D G A D

2 2 3 3 2 0 3 | 2 2 0 2 3

Hut on Staffin Island

Scottish Slow Reel Written by Phil Cunningham

Arranged by Wilson Noble

A

D G D/F#

1 2 3

TAB 0 2 0 2 0 0 2 4 0 4 2 3 2 0 0 2 0 2 4 0

4 **A** 5 D 6

2 2 4 2 0 2 0 0 2 4 0 4 2 3 2

7 G D/F# 8 A D 9 **B** Bm

0 0 2 0 2 4 0 2 0 4 2 0 3 3 0 3

10 **A** 11 G 12 D

2 0 2 3 2 0 2 0 0 3 0 2 4 2 4 0

Bm A G

13

3 3 0 3 | 2 0 2 3 2 0 2 | 0 0 3 0

D

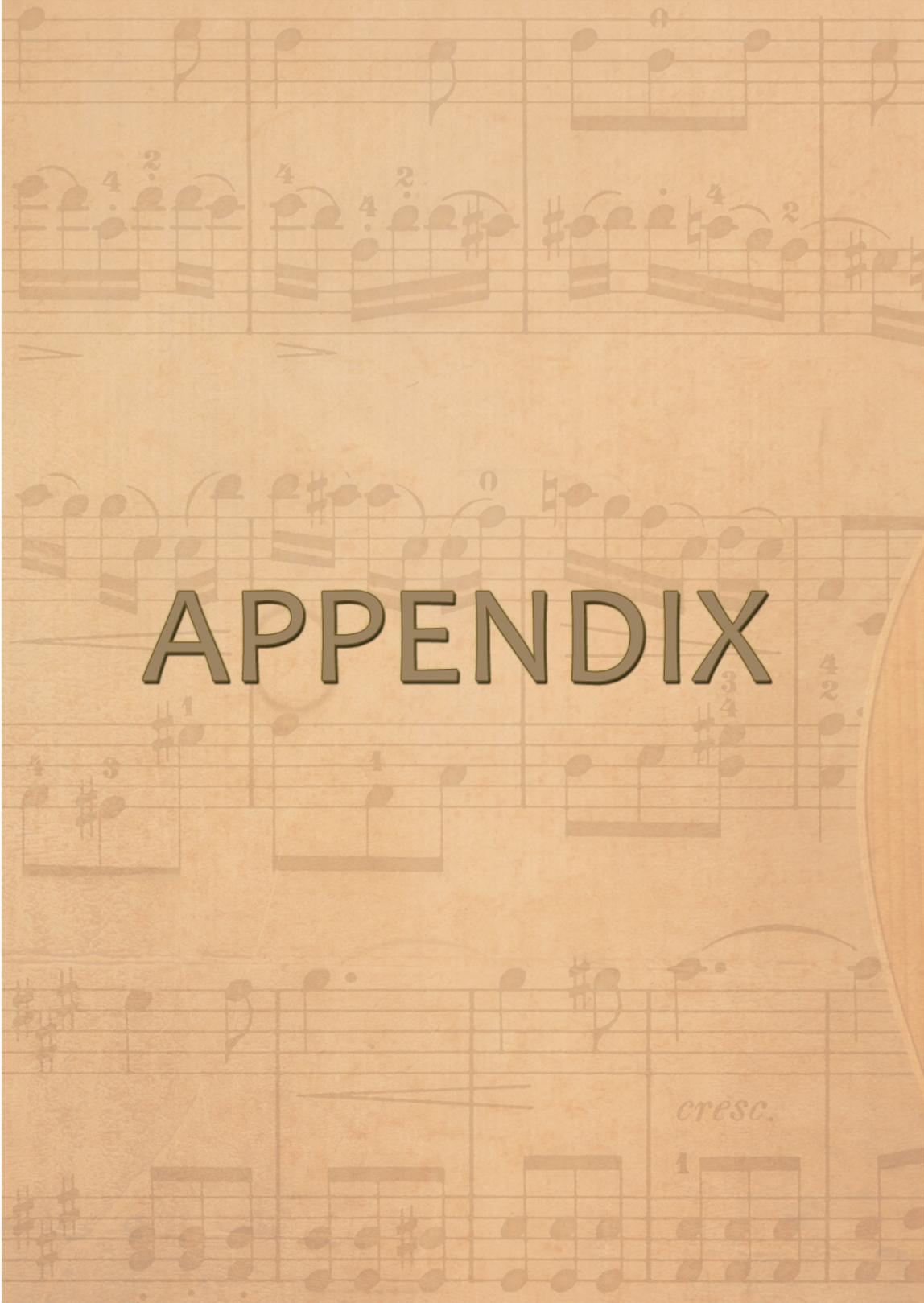
16

2 4 2 4 0 2 | 0 2 0 2 0 0 2 | 4 0 4 2 3 2

G D/F# A D

19

0 0 2 0 2 4 0 | 2 0 4 2 0

The background of the page is a faded, sepia-toned musical score. It features multiple staves with various musical notations, including notes, rests, and fingerings. The word "APPENDIX" is centered over the middle of the page in a large, bold, grey font. The overall aesthetic is that of an old, weathered manuscript.

APPENDIX

Skye Boat Song

(4th Position)

Traditional Scottish Song Air

Arranged by Wilson Noble

A

1 G Em D 4

5 G C 7 G D

9 G Em D 12

13 G C 15 G D 16

8

Em

Am

17 18 19 20

4 5 4 4 7 7 7 7

Em

C

Em

21 22 23 24

5 7 5 5 7 (7)

Am

25 26 27 28

4 5 4 5 7 7 7 7

Em

C

Em

D

29 30 31 32

5 7 5 5 7 5

Waiting for the Federals

(7th Position)

Traditional Scottish Reel

Arranged by Wilson Noble

A

1 G

2

3

4 C D G

5

6

7 C D G

8

9

10

11

12

B

Em G

13

7 9 9 7 | 8 10 7 10 8 8 9 | 7 8 9 7 9 7 10

16 C D G

17 18

7 9 7 10 7 9 | 10 10 9 7 | 10 10 10 7

Tutor Contact

Thank you very much for taking part in the 'Introduction to Celtic Guitar' Online Workshop.

I wish you all the best and hope that you enjoy your journey learning and playing this beautiful music...

If you have any questions you can contact me on my website at:

<https://celticguitarworkshop.com/contact>

