

Now let's play a basic melody everyone knows using the notes we've learned on the C, E, and A strings. Observe the quarter notes and half notes, and play with your thumb.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR

Children's Melody

15

The musical score for 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' is presented in four systems. Each system contains a treble clef staff with a 4/4 time signature and a corresponding tablature staff. The melody is composed of quarter and half notes, primarily using the C, E, and A strings. The tablature uses numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3 to indicate fret positions. The first system begins with a measure number '15'. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth system.

Great melodies never stray too far from our hearts. Often they inspire parodies, like the classic "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," which we also know as "Bah Bah Black Sheep" and "The Alphabet Song."

Little known and often neglected is the great body of work recorded in the 1920s and thirties by old-time country, blues, and jug bands. Their use of the ukulele demonstrates not only its percussive role, but also the full gamut of uke styling—from intricate strums, rolls, and fingerpicking to tremolo and single-string lead work—all, of course, complimented by scat singing, whistling, voicing, and other vocal embellishments of the period. Some of these important bands were the Hillbillies, Fiddlin' Minnie Spillers, Broadwaters,