

Etude No. 1

Op. 60

with tab fingering

Fernando Sor
(1778-1839)

Measures 1-4 of the etude. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The guitar tablature below shows the corresponding fret numbers: 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 3, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, 0.

Measures 5-8 of the etude. Measure 5 continues the eighth-note sequence. Measure 6 has a sharp sign above the eighth note. Measure 7 has a sharp sign above the eighth note. Measure 8 ends with a double bar line. The guitar tablature shows: 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 2, 1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0, 3.

Measures 9-12 of the etude. The treble clef staff shows a sequence of eighth notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The guitar tablature shows: 3, 0, 3, 1, 0, 3, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 0, 3.

Measures 13-16 of the etude. Measure 13 continues the eighth-note sequence. Measure 14 has a sharp sign above the eighth note. Measure 15 has a sharp sign above the eighth note. Measure 16 ends with a double bar line. The guitar tablature shows: 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 3, 3.

Musical Tip Sheet

The Big 5:

1. Reduce work with posture and a positive attitude
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 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, pausing when needed (no mistakes!)
7. Play hands together slowly in rhythm, counting aloud

Musical Starting Points:

1. Decide 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 the ones 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 (so you don't ingrain bad habits).
5. Video yourself for performance practice, and to hear what is working.

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