

# The Guitarist's Way

## Book 1



Welcome to the Millennium Edition of *The Guitarist's Way* . . . . .

The series is designed primarily for those who are taking their first steps in playing the guitar, either in small groups or as individuals. It is assumed that there will be a teacher to give appropriate individual guidance, including how to hold and tune the guitar.

Through a series of graded tunes and exercises, Book One leads to the playing of simple melodies on the top three strings, whilst developing a secure technique in both hands. A few bass notes are then introduced, followed by pieces which combine a melody with a simple bass accompaniment.

Throughout the four books of the series, many pieces can be combined to produce duets or ensemble items. This will help to develop the enjoyable and important skill of playing with other guitarists. Phrase marks are omitted for the sake of clarity, but can easily be added according to personal preference.

Many people have helped us during our journey along "The Way", but of these we would especially like to thank Alison Bendy for all her comments and advice on the editorial side, and all of our many students who have "road-tested" the pieces and given us their verdicts!

We hope you have lots of fun in this exciting adventure . . . . .

*Peter Nuttall*

*John Whitworth*

Original compositions are marked *PN* or *JW*.

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**Ninth Edition**


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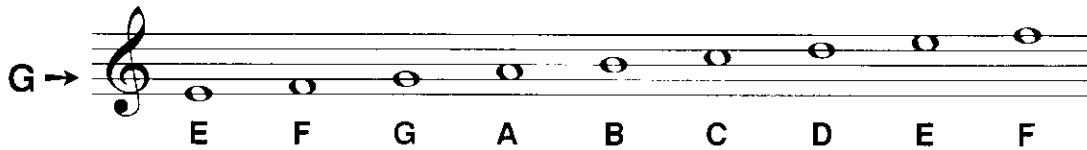
# INTRODUCTION

Music is written on 5 parallel lines



called a STAVE

The TREBLE CLEF  at the beginning of each stave fixes the pitch of the notes:



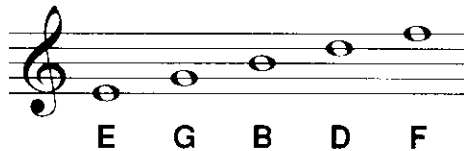
The NOTES (oval shape) can be either:



ON THE LINES

or

IN THE SPACES




Most music is divided into regular BARS by vertical lines called BAR-LINES

$\frac{4}{4}$  (The 'TIME SIGNATURE') means '4 beats in each bar'



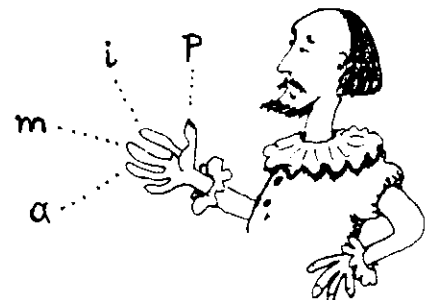
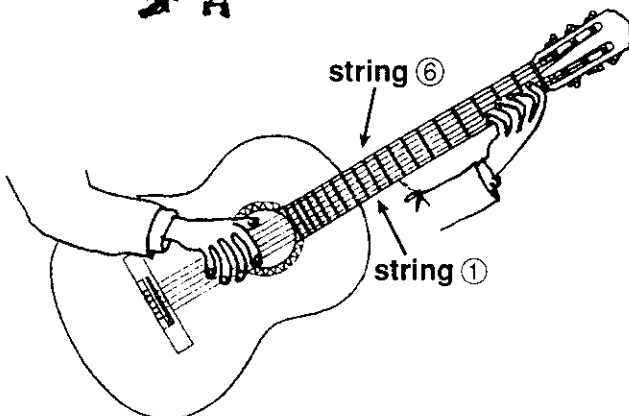
 lasts for 1 beat (= CROTCHET)

 lasts for 2 beats (= MINIM)

 lasts for 3 beats (= DOTTED MINIM)

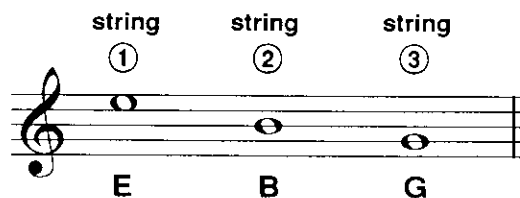
 lasts for 4 beats (= SEMIBREVE)

## THE RIGHT HAND



A number in a circle tells you which STRING to play

# Open Strings



Rest thumb (p) on ⑤ or ⑥

Fingers play REST STROKE

Right hand: i m i m



Ensemble: 1, 2 & 3 in any combination  
Play any one as a canon

Remember to alternate your right hand fingers

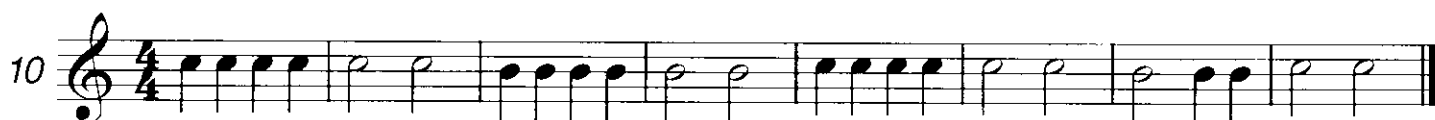
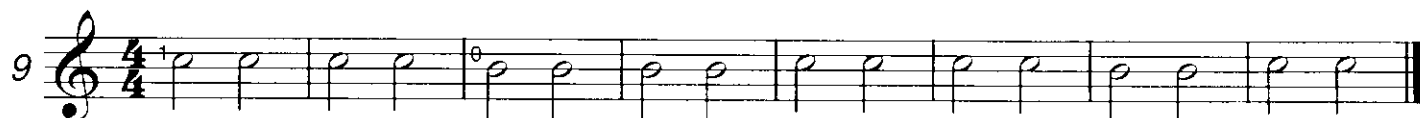
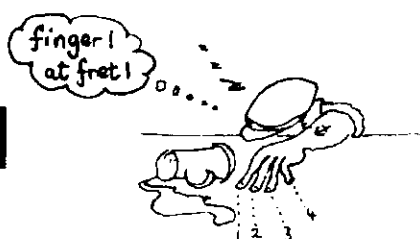
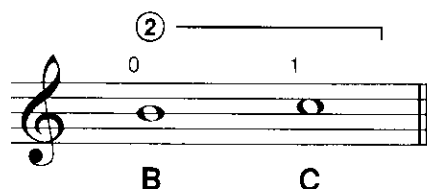


# Folk Song

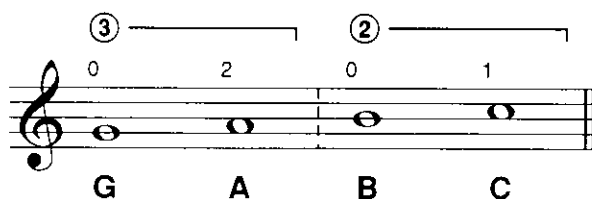


Mark in some **DYNAMICS**  
(Louds and softs)

Notes on  
string two ②



## Four Notes

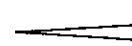


## Up from G



$\frac{2}{4}$  means 2 beats in a bar

## The Fiddler

 (crescendo)  
GETTING LOUDER



**3/4 time**



**Waltz** 13

Count 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3



Right hand: im or ami or ima

Ensemble: 1-bar canon



## Dutch Folk Song

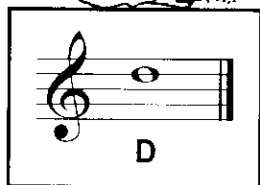
14

*f* *p*



## Chinese Tune

D can be played with finger 3 or finger 4



15



16

*m* *i*

1 2 3 4

JW

repeat the whole piece

Duet: 15 & 16



## Merrily

17



## Morning Mood

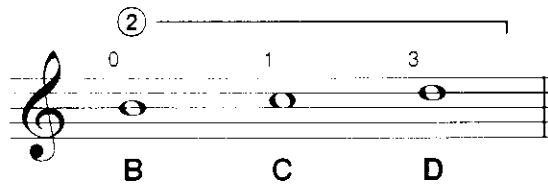
(from 'Peer Gynt' by Grieg)

18



(diminuendo)  
GETTING SOFTER

Notes on  
string two ②



## Study

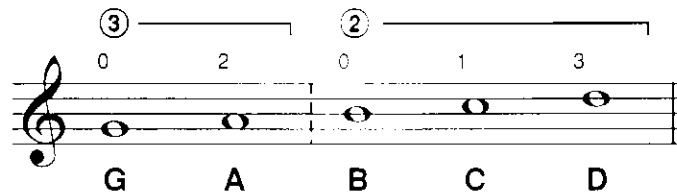
19



leave finger 1 down

Duet: 17 & 19

Five Note  
Dictionary



Learn G major scale  
on page 15



## The Ladder

20

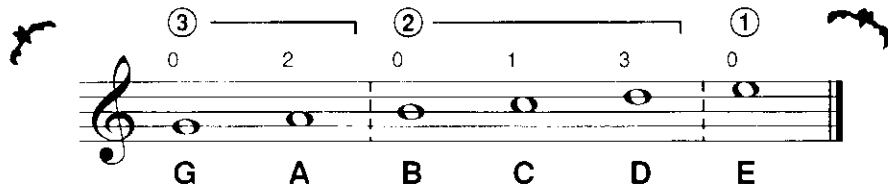


JW

Leave finger 1 down when  
changing from C to D to C

Ensemble: 1- or 2-bar canon

## Six Note Dictionary



## At the Show



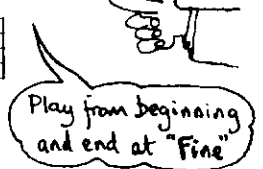
## The Star



★<sup>22</sup>



D.C. al Fine



## La Bergamasca



## Elizabethan Dance Tune



Accompaniment



Duet: 23 & 24

Ensemble: 2- or 4-bar canon



# German Folk Song

25

*p*

*f*

## Using the Right Hand Thumb



Thumb plays  
FREE STROKE

Rest *ima* on ①

New note



26

*p* -----

*p*

Fine

D.C. al Fine

Duet: 25 & 26

## Bugle Calls



27(i)

*p* -----

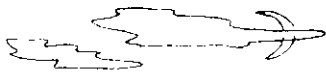
(ii)

(iii)

PN

Compose some more!

Ensemble: 1- & 2-bar canons  
Also: (i) & (ii) & (iii)



# In the Moonlight

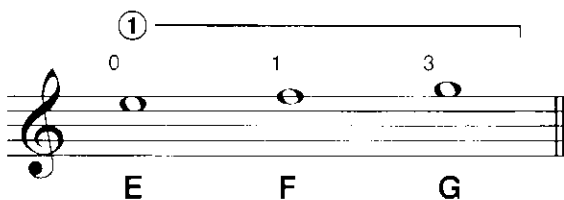


D.C. al Fine

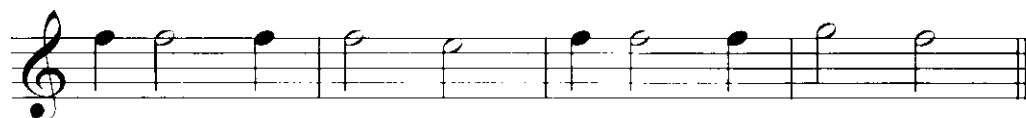


Duet: 28 & 29

Notes on  
string one ①



First String  
Melody



D.C. al Fine



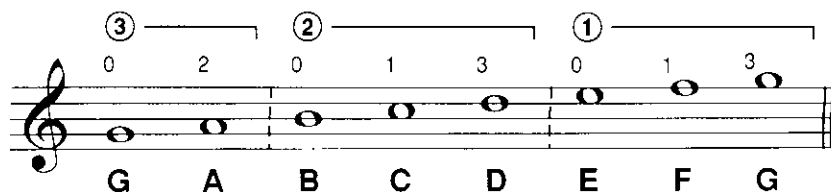
# Good King Wenceslas



Duet: 30 & 31 (!)

⏏ is a 1 beat (crotchet) rest

# Eight Note Dictionary



Learn C major scales  
on page 15

## Aunt Rhody

American Folk Song



## The Tallis Canon

This piece begins  
on beat 4



Ensemble: 1- or 2-bar canon

## Oh when the Saints

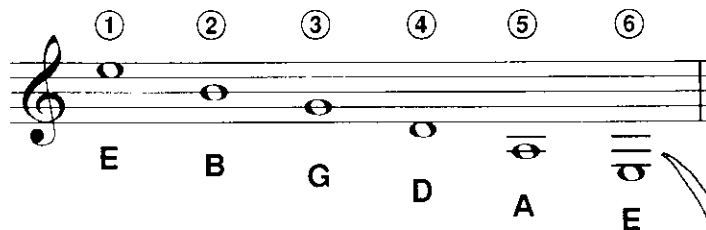
American Jazz Tune

This piece begins  
on beat 2



— is a 2 beat (minim) rest

# The Six Open Strings:

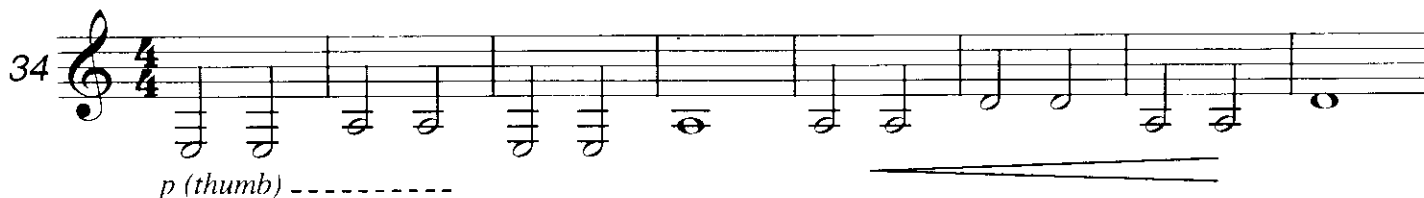


Rest ima on ①  
for 34 & 35

## In the Deep



these are  
'ledger lines'



**RESTS**

= 1 beat     = 2 beats  
 = 4 beats or whole bar

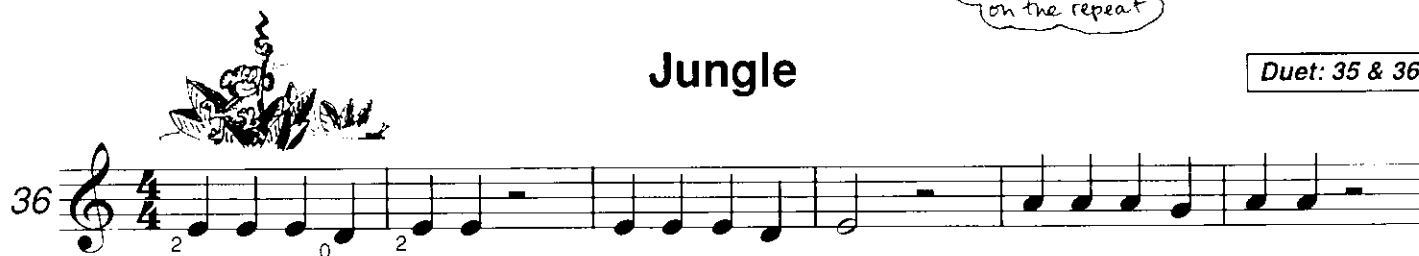
## Needing a Rest (12-bar Blues)

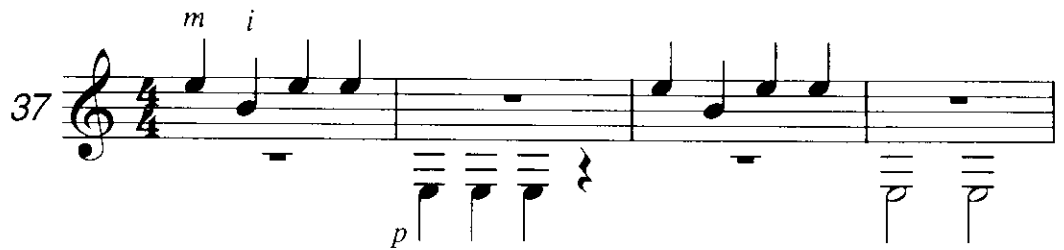
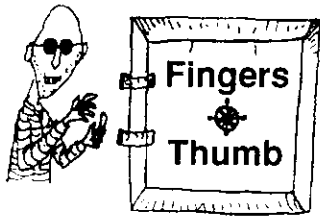
**New note**



## Jungle

Duet: 35 & 36





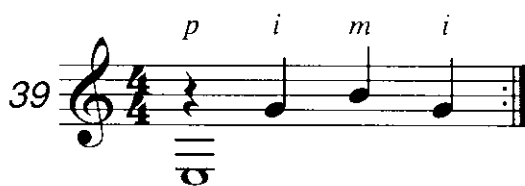
When music has two voices:  
Stems up - use fingers  
Stems down - use thumb



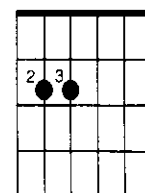
## Song of the Mountains



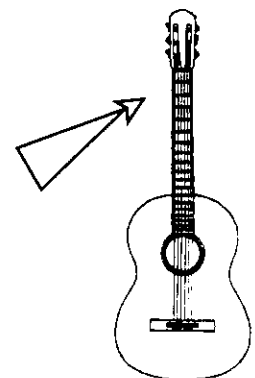
## Accompaniments



or 37 or



E minor  
chord  
(strummed)



..... or any combination!

# Carnival

Leave out the bass notes at first

41

*mf*

1.

2.

*p*

*rall.*

PN

*rall.* (rallentando) means SLOWING DOWN

*mf* (mezzo-forte) means MODERATELY LOUD  
*mp* (mezzo-piano) means MODERATELY SOFT

# Spanish Dance

42

*mp*

*p* *m* *i*

*f*

*m* *i* *m* *i* *m* *p* *i* *m*

*f*

JW



## Ukraine Folk Song

Allow the bass notes to ring on over the rests

43

*mf*

*p*

*f*

PN

fret 5



## DAILY SCALES



G major



A minor



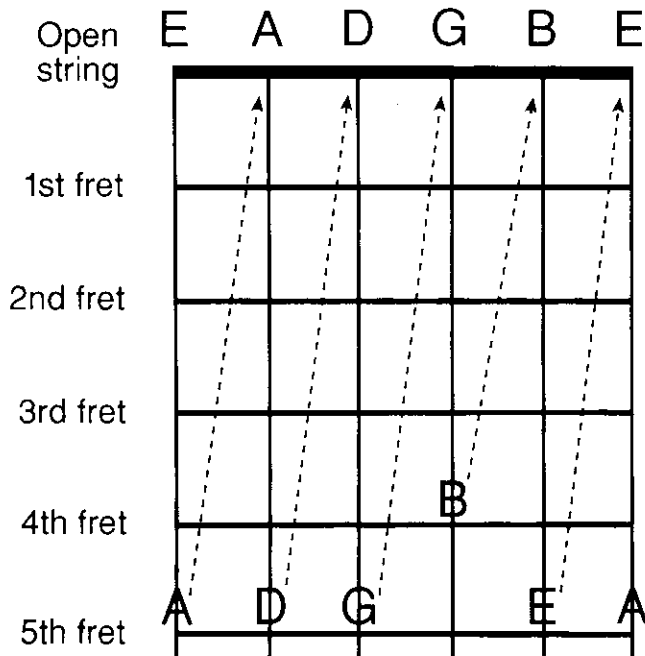
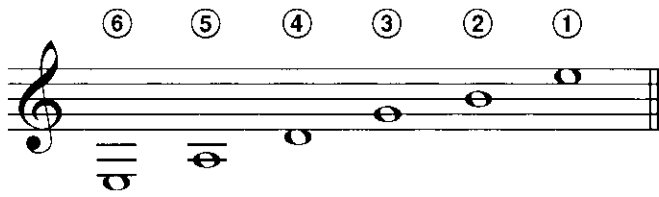
C major



Scale of C major  
(plagal range)



# TUNING the GUITAR



Tune ⑥ to E if possible.

Play ⑥ at fret 5. Tune open ⑤ to this note.

Play ⑤ at fret 5. Tune open ④ to this note.

Play ④ at fret 5. Tune open ③ to this note.

Play ③ at fret 4. Tune open ② to this note.

Play ② at fret 5. Tune open ① to this note.

Check tuning with E minor chord (see p.13)

## NOTE FINDER

