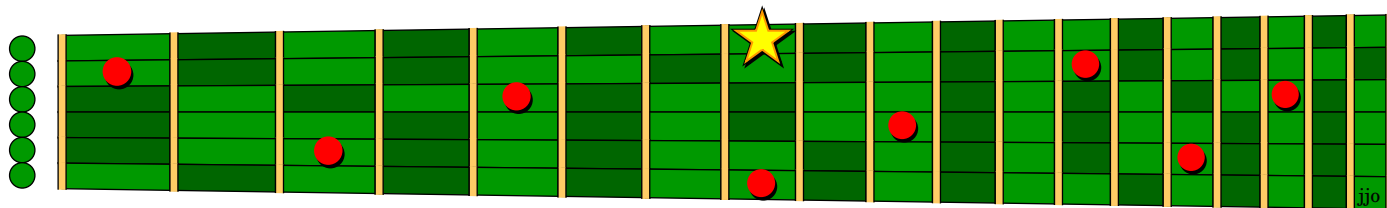


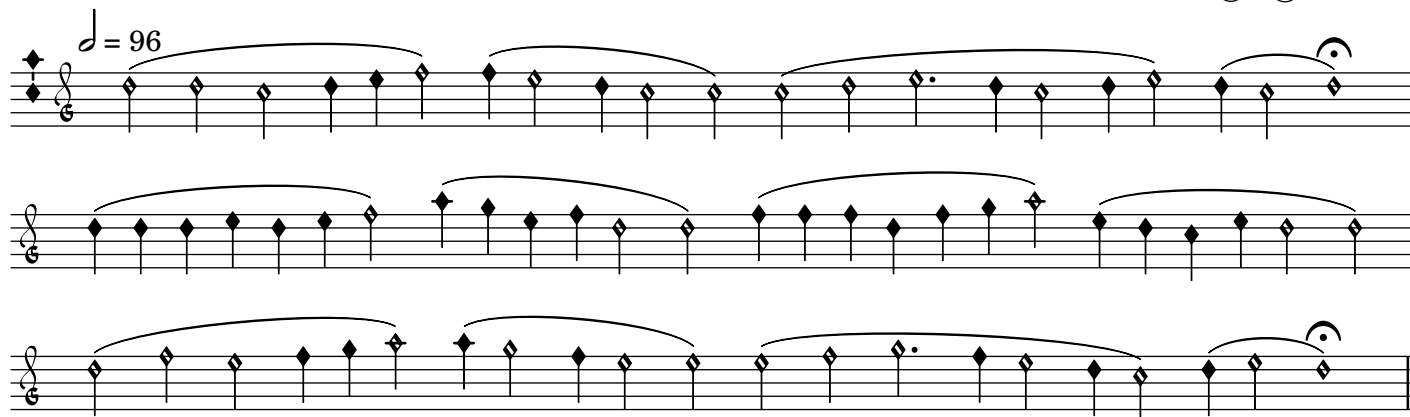
December Fretboard Exercises

Medieval Sightreads for Yuletide

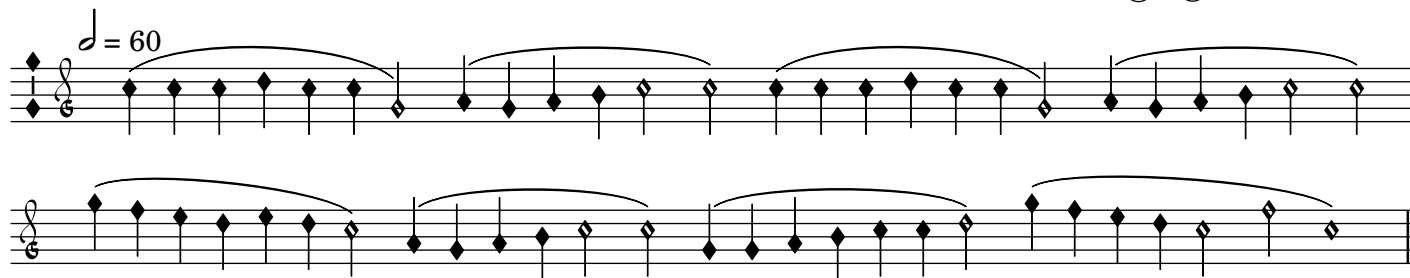
J. J. Olson



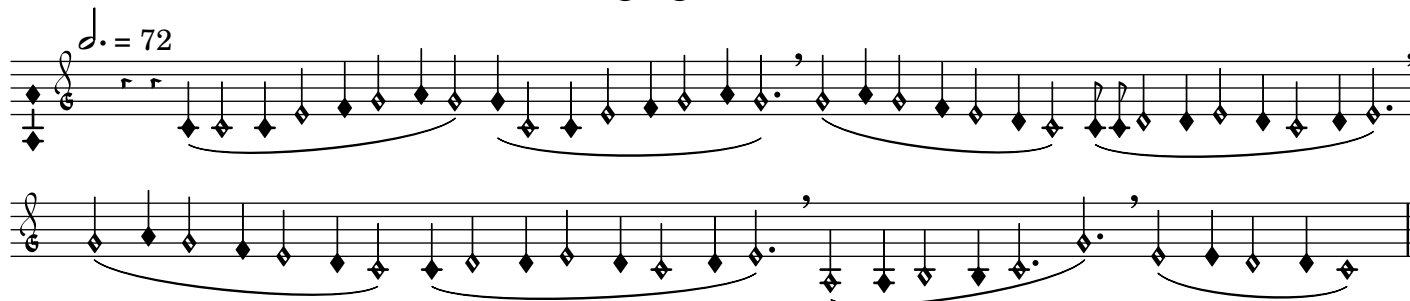
Exercise 1: I 1 II 3 III 1 IV 2 V 1 VI 3 VII 1 VIII 4 IX 1 X 3 XI 4 XII 1 ② ③



Exercise 2: I 1 II 3 III 3 IV 2 V 2 VI 5 VII 2 VIII 5 IX 2 X 4 XI 7 ③ ④



Exercise 3: I 0 II 0 III 4 IV 4 V 0 ⑤ ⑥



Exercise Index

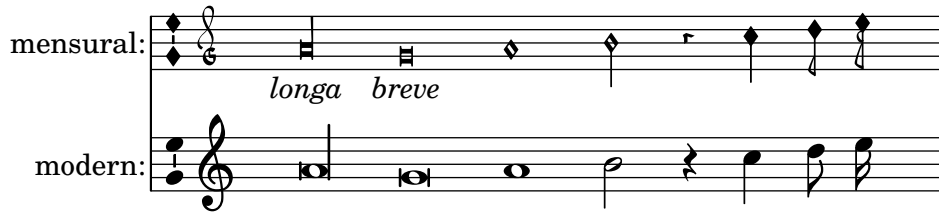
Exercise 1	Swedish: Gaudete, Christus Est Natus	1
Exercise 2	Finnish: Tempus Adest Floridum (Springtime Is Come)	1
Exercise 3	German: In Dulci Jubilo (In Sweet Rejoicing)	1

These medieval songs in Latin mensural notation were collected from across northern Europe into the Finnish book *Piae Cantiones* published by Theodoricus Petri in 1582. Nearly 300 years later, that book was brought to England where some of the songs were converted into Christmas carols that we recognize today. A PDF of the original 1582 edition is available for free on IMSLP.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piae_Cantiones
- [https://imslp.org/wiki/Piae_cantiones_\(Petri%2C_Didrik\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Piae_cantiones_(Petri%2C_Didrik))

The note shapes in these exercises are from 15th century mensural notation, but the durations chosen are ones more familiar in today's music. Notice there are no measures/bars.

- See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mensural_notation



Exercise 1 was a 1973 hit when sung *a cappella* by an English folk rock group (watch youtube below!). The 1582 book gave music only for the chorus, so groups do their own thing for the verses; Steeleye used D minor and mine is D Dorian. The last staff is the 1582 tenor part for the chorus.

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaudete>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDc2FD-vy8M> (by 70s rock band Steeleye Span)

Exercise 2 was a spring song until the English made it into Good King Wenceslas

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tempus_Adest_Floridum
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zv8PgukSLX0>

Exercise 3 was revised into Good Christian Men Rejoice; also used by Bach and others. The first note is a pickup, not a downbeat.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_dulci_jubilo
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wduFx3kOB14> (guitar arr. by Hayward)

These exercises are from the yet to be released book “Diatonic Fretboard Exercises”, which contains over a thousand such exercises and will be made available for free on IMSLP. The contents may be freely copied and modified, but with the condition that they be attributed to J. J. Olson (CC-BY license).

Interested? Contact Jeff Olson at jjocanoe@gmail.com