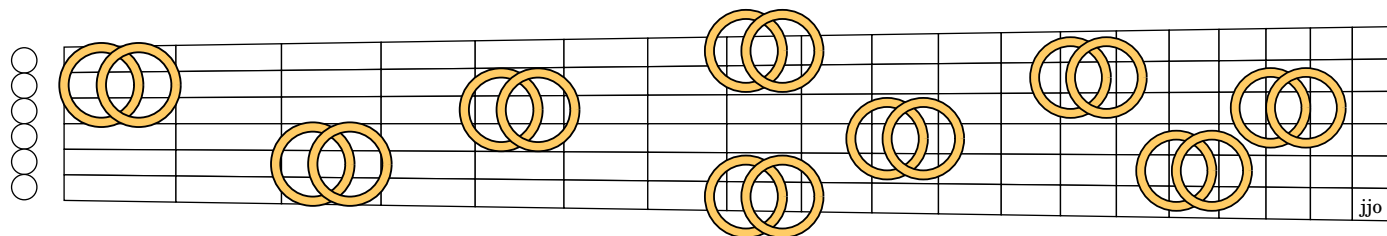


June Fretboard Exercises

Sightreads Unfit for Weddings?



People know these wedding tunes, but maybe not their backstories.

Exercise 1: I 1 II 5 III 4 IV 5 V 5 VI 9 VII 4 VIII 6 IX 4 X 6 XI 9 ③ ④



Exercise 1	Wagner(1850): Lohengrin, Bridal Chorus	1
Exercise 2	Mendelssohn(1842): Wedding March, Op.61, No.9	1
Exercise 3	Verdi(1871): Aida, Grand March	1
Exercise 4	Vivaldi(1720): Four Seasons, Spring, RV 269, No.1, Allegro	1

Are these pieces fit for a wedding?

Exercise 1 is the wedding march from the opera Lohengrin, about a Knight of the Grail who is sent by God to rescue and marry the noblewoman Elsa, under the condition that she not ask his name or origin. Ultimately, she cannot resist asking and he reveals himself truthfully but is duty-bound to leave, whereupon Elsa, grief-stricken, falls to the ground dead.

No marriage. Groom leaves after wedding. Bride dies of grief.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridal_Chorus
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lohengrin_\(opera\)#Act_3](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lohengrin_(opera)#Act_3)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhY7IEG_lv8 (Ben Bloor 2023)

Exercise 2 is a wedding march written for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream* which involves several romantic relationships as subplots. After spending the night in the forest, most of the lovers come back confused about whom they love, while one couple does have a wedding, its entertainment is a play about the classical lovers *Pyramus and Thisbe* who both commit suicide.

Mixed. One wedding, two suicides and four very confused lovers.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedding_March_\(Mendelssohn\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedding_March_(Mendelssohn))
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Midsummer_Night%27s_Dream_\(Mendelssohn\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Midsummer_Night%27s_Dream_(Mendelssohn))
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Midsummer_Night%27s_Dream
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTGRhJ5P-40> (Ben Bloor 2023)

Exercise 3 is the Grand March when the victorious young commander Radamès returns and hopes to marry Aida, a slave with whom he is secretly in love. Instead, he is sentenced as a traitor and the two of them are sealed in a stone cold tomb to die of suffocation.

No marriage. Bride and groom die by suffocation.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aida#Act_2
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zclx6U-faJg&t=85s> (Jonathan Scott 2022)

Exercise 4 is the only one of these four that seems suited to a wedding. Vivaldi writes in the accompanying sonnet "Springtime is upon us. The birds celebrate her return with festive song, and murmuring streams are softly caressed by the breezes."

No problem. It's springtime. Enjoy!

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Four_Seasons_\(Vivaldi\)#Sonnets_and_allusions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Four_Seasons_(Vivaldi)#Sonnets_and_allusions)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LiztfE1X7E> (Voices of Music 2020)

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

*P.S. It easiest to follow these links if you **get the pdf** as indicated on the first page.*