

Silent Night

Instructional Notes

This lovely old Christmas carol was originally composed on the guitar.

We're playing it in the key of G major. The bass accompaniment is the classic waltz pattern of "oom pah pah" where the "oom" is the bass note and the "pah" is the bass chord.

A few times we can sound a note simply by changing the direction of the bellows. I put a † sign on these notes.

Bar 1 - Dotted crotchet/quaver/crotchet. You count this "1 (2) and 3".

The 1st D is played on beat one and is held for the whole of beat one and half of beat 2. The E is played on the "and" count after beat 2. The final D note is played on beat three.

This timing sequence occurs a lot in this tune.

The bass note "oom" is played on beat one, the 1st bass chord "pah" is played on the count of 2 where there is no right hand note and the 2nd bass chord "pah" is played on

beat three where the right hand D note occurs.

Bar 2 - Dotted minim, held for three beats.

Bars 3 and 4 = Bars 1 and 2

Bars 5 and 6 - Little finger on A and 3rd finger on F#. All on the pull.

Bars 7 and 8 - identical timing to previous two bars. On the push.

Bars 9 and 10 - All C chord. Watch out for change of direction at the start of Bar 10. You play oom pah on the push and the final pah on the pull again.

Bars 11 and 12 = Bars 1 and 2

Bars 13 - 16 = Bars 9 - 12

Bars 17 and 18 - Change of R.H position. All on the pull. In Bar 18 you are playing the component parts of a D7 chord (without the D!).

Bars 19 and 20 - two dotted minims on the push.

Bar 21 - Change of R.H position. G major chord.

Bar 22 - D* is played chin end. The A note is played on the D row (diamond head). Keep the 1st "pah" short!!

Bars 23 and 24 - G note held for four beats. On the 1st beat of the 24th bar play the G bass note and chord together. This will give you time to open the bellows up to restart the tune.