Concertina Tablature.

**Intro**

Designed for use with a 30 button Jackie Treble Concertina made by Concertina Connection but could be adapted for any English Concertina with more or less buttons.

I designed this because although I read music I found I could play more fluently using this tablature.

**Explanation**

The tablature takes the form of a spread sheet made in the Numbers software for Mac but could easily be made using Excel. I will provide blank sheets in Numbers and pdf form for you to make your own.

I am using “Morning Has Broken” as an example because it is a very easy tune in the key of C major, counting in threes.

There are four sheets on this page.

Look on the left hand side of the page at the first.

At the top of the page is the title of the piece, the page number and some instructions.

Two main columns are LEFT and RIGHT with a bellows column in the middle so you can orientate yourself. I play using three finger of each hand with my little fingers placed under the finger rests. Finger one is used on the top two rows (nearest the thumb strap), finger two deals with notes on row three and finger three with the bottom row (nearest the finger rest).

I strongly suggest that you learn, off by heart, the notes that each button produces. I label the lowest pitched G, A#/Bb, and B on the right side plus the lowest pitched A and C on the left side “low” as there is a note with the same name two octaves higher on the same side

The three fingers of each hand have a column each.

On the left hand side of each sheet is a counting column to help you with the timing.

This is how to read the tablature.

The first note you can see is “low C”. It’s on the left hand side of the concertina and it is played using the 1st finger of the left hand. Looking at the counting on the left hand side you will see that this note lasts for the whole of beat one. \*

Now drop to the next row. The note is E – on the left side - finger 2. \*

Now drop to the next row. The note is G – left side, finger 1. \*

Now you can see a thick horizontal line indicating the end of the bar. (three beats per bar).

Now in the next row you can see a C – right side on the count of one but filling up three rows so it last for all three beats of the bar so keep it sustaining. \*

The D in the next bar also lasts for three beats (the whole bar). \*

Keep reading down the sheet till you get to the bottom and then go to the next sheet on the right. In the third bar of this sheet you have a D on the right side that lasts for six beats BUT half way through you have to play a low B (same side). In this way you have a nice little bass harmony. \*

Any harmony notes like this you will see in brackets.

At the very end of the piece (sheet three) you have a low C and an E on the left side that are held for six beats or two bars. Because these two notes are in the same row they are played at the same time and held together to give you a little chord to finish the piece. \*

The small sheet which you can see bottom right is a list, in ascending order, of all the notes that you find in this piece – ranging from low B (just under middle C on the piano up to the D which is just over an octave above middle C.

You may say, why bother with this if you can read music?

Well, all I can say is that I find this method really easy to read and it helps me to be more accurate. If you can’t read music then this tab will be perfect for you.

At a glance you can see the following information:-

The note name, which side of the concertina it’s on, which finger plays it and how long it lasts.

I did experiment with putting more information in like numbering the notes to indicate pitch and also labelling up notes on the top row that are played with the first finger extended but I abandoned this because I felt it cluttered up the page unnecessarily.

This is a nice easy piece to get you started. More will follow.

Here’s what the piece sounds like:-