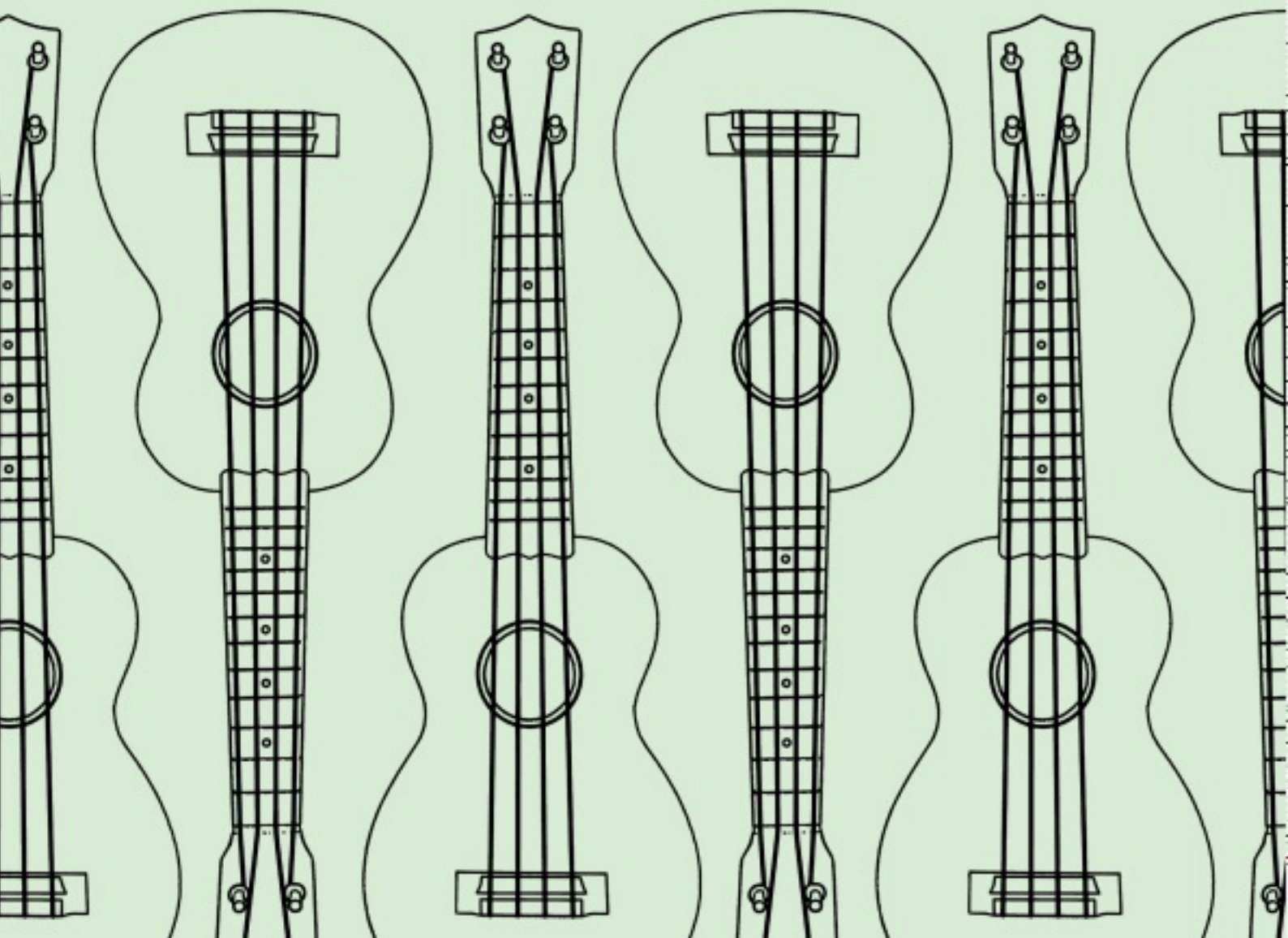


Pachelbel's Canon

arranged for

ukulele ensemble

by Thomas Preece



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Thank you once again for your interest in my arrangements, and I hope you enjoy them!

Pachelbel's Canon

arranged for ukulele ensemble by Thomas Preece

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This PDF file also contains the **parts** for First, Second and Third Ukulele. You will find these at the end of the document, after the complete score.

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Introduction

Johann Pachelbel's *Canon in D* is perhaps one of the world's most famous pieces of classical music. Originally composed in the 1600s, the piece lay in obscurity for many centuries, until it was rediscovered in 1968 and suddenly became unexpectedly popular. It has firmly established its place as a standard of popular classical music.

Unsurprisingly, this isn't the first arrangement of the famous *Canon* for ukulele. However, previous arrangements have generally attempted to distill the essence of the music onto a single instrument, making it playable as a solo piece. The only real issue with this approach is its unfortunate double consequence of making the piece a lot harder to play, whilst having to simplify a number of passages to make it physically possible. Most arrangements also present a shortened version, presumably to keep the amount of learning required to a manageable level. It also defeats somewhat the object of a canon, being a piece in which multiple instruments play the same relatively simple part at different times, creating a more complex and interesting sound texture.

This arrangement takes the approach of arranging for three ukuleles, paralleling the three violins of the original. This results in the music being incredibly simple to play and, with a little practice, should be within the reach even of beginners. Only one string need be plucked or fingered at any one time, and although there are a few passages that go up to the higher registers of the instrument, these are few and far between - and not as scary as you might think.

Performance Notes

I've taken the liberty of doubling the time values of all of the notes in the piece, primarily to make the music more approachable and easier to read: a long run of semiquavers is a lot more intimidating than the same passage rendered as quavers, even if it sounds identical. This also serves as a reminder that the piece is actually intended to be played relatively slowly.

Care should be taken not to start playing too quickly at the beginning of the piece, as this will make it hard to play the passages of shorter notes at full tempo! Paradoxically, there is also a temptation to speed up when reaching these passages - perhaps because of the temptation to think of them as "faster" passages - of course they are nothing of the sort: they are the same speed, just with shorter notes.

Although the three parts come in at different times, they are identical, except for the very end, where all of the parts finish at the same time. This means that the piece can initially be practised in unison, if desired, before proceeding to play it as a canon.

Realising the Continuo Part

Like many pieces from the baroque era, Pachelbel's *Canon* calls for a *basso continuo*. This is an unspecified set of bass and accompaniment instruments, left to the discretion of the musicians. For this arrangement, I have suggested a bass ukulele for the bassline, and have noted the chords suggested by the music in the score.

As the bassline could equally well be played on a number of different instruments, and is in any case a mere eight notes repeated throughout, I have intentionally not provided a full part for this. Bass ukulele (or bass guitar) players requiring tablature should refer to the following scheme:

Note that as the bass ukulele and bass guitar transpose at the octave, the tablature shown would normally be represented as notes one octave higher than written - however, this will sound at concert pitch. The bass part could also be played on a cello, or even an octave higher on a baritone ukulele as follows:

The chords are similarly repetitive, and can be played on a fourth ukulele. They can be played as simple first-position chords, or as any other variation as preferred. I personally like to play them on a soprano ukulele tuned in D, or on a normal C ukulele by putting a capo on the second fret - this changes the chords to C G Am Em F C F G7, which is both simpler to play and has a nicer sound than the chords in D major on a C ukulele.

Strumming patterns are left up to the musician to experiment with and decide on a most appropriate one for their group's style. I particularly like to strum quite quickly, fitting what would normally be a whole bar's strums into each half-bar chord - but that is only my personal preference; you should play around with different options and pick the one you like the most.

Another option is to play the bassline and chords on a keyboard instrument - this was a common understanding of *continuo* in the baroque period, although personally I think that an ukulele arrangement is best played all on ukuleles!

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Acknowledgments

I would like to thank everyone who has helped, assisted or encouraged me on this project. Particular thanks go to Joop Kiefte for his help in designing the cover.

About the Arranger

Thomas Preece has been a musician since his primary school days, where he learned to play piano and cello. Since 2011 he has primarily focused on the ukulele, and is pleased to be able to present this arrangement of such a well-known piece, adding it to the repertoire of his favourite instrument. He lives in Reading with his cat, Biscuit.

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

arr Thomas Preece

D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

First Ukulele

Second Ukulele

Third Ukulele

Bass Ukulele

8 G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷ D A Bm F#m

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

15 G D G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

21

D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

25

D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

29

D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

33

D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

37

D A Bm F#m G D

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

40

G A⁷ D A Bm F#m

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

43

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

G D G A⁷ D A

Detailed description: This system contains measures 43, 44, and 45. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The 1st staff has a treble clef and contains the melody with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, D5 in measure 43; G4, A4, B4, C5, D5 in measure 44; and D4, A4, B4, C5, D5 in measure 45. Chord symbols G, D, G, A7, D, and A are placed above the staff. The 2nd staff has a treble clef and contains a complex rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes. The 3rd staff has a treble clef and contains a simple accompaniment of dotted quarter notes. The Bass staff has a bass clef and contains a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

46

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

Bm F#m G D G A⁷

Detailed description: This system contains measures 46, 47, and 48. The key signature is D major. The 1st staff has a treble clef and contains the melody with notes B3, F#4, G4, D4, G4, A4 in measures 46-48. Chord symbols Bm, F#m, G, D, G, and A7 are placed above the staff. The 2nd staff has a treble clef and contains a complex rhythmic accompaniment. The 3rd staff has a treble clef and contains a simple accompaniment. The Bass staff has a bass clef and contains a simple accompaniment.

49

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

D A Bm F#m G D

Detailed description: This system contains measures 49, 50, and 51. The key signature is D major. The 1st staff has a treble clef and contains the melody with notes D4, A4, B4, F#4, G4, D4 in measures 49-51. Chord symbols D, A, Bm, F#m, G, and D are placed above the staff. The 2nd staff has a treble clef and contains a simple accompaniment of quarter notes. The 3rd staff has a treble clef and contains a complex rhythmic accompaniment. The Bass staff has a bass clef and contains a simple accompaniment.

52 G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

1st
2nd
3rd
Bass

56 G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

1st
2nd
3rd
Bass

60 G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

1st
2nd
3rd
Bass

64

G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

68

G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

72

G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

76

G A⁷ D A Bm F[#]m G D

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

80

G A⁷ D A Bm F[#]m G D

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

84

G A⁷ D A Bm F[#]m G D G A⁷

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

89 D A Bm F#m G D G A⁷ D A

94 Bm F#m G D G A⁷ D A Bm F#m

99 G D G A⁷ D A Bm F#m G D

104

G A⁷ D A Bm F[#]m G D G A⁷

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

109

D A Bm F[#]m G D G A⁷ D

1st

2nd

3rd

Bass

Pachelbel's Canon

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First Ukulele

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First Ukulele Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

arr Thomas Preece

4

4

12

18

23

27

33

38

First Ukulele

41

9 5 7 9 7 5 7 4 5 7 9 7 5 4 5 2 4 5 0 2 2 0 2 5 4 5 2 5 4 2 0 0 2 0 2 4 5

44

2 5 4 5 4 2 4 5 7 5 4 5 2 4 5 4 2 5 4 2 2 2 0

49

0 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 7 9 6 7 6 0 7 9 7

54

5 2 2 0 0 0 2 2 4 2 0 0 0 2 2 2 4 4 4 2 5 7 5 4 4 5 4

58

2 2 2 4 2 0 5 7 10 9 9 10 10 9 10 7 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

62

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 2 2 0 0 7 4 0 9 9 9 7 7 7 7

66

5 5 5 5 12 12 12 12 14 14 14 14 12 12 12 12 14 14 14 14 16 4 4 4 5 0 2 4 5 7 4 2 2 1

First Ukulele

4

70

Musical notation for measures 70-73. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with strings G, A, and B indicated. The fretting sequence is: 2 2 4 5 2 4 0 2 0 | 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 | 2 0 2 0 0 2 0 2 0 | 2 5 4 5 2 0 0 2 4 0.

74

Musical notation for measures 74-79. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with strings G, A, and B indicated. The fretting sequence is: 2 5 7 9 5 9 9 7 5 4 | 2 2 0 2 4 5 9 7 5 9 | 10 10 9 7 7 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 2 0 3 0.

80

Musical notation for measures 80-86. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with strings G, A, and B indicated. The fretting sequence is: 0 2 2 1 2 | 5 4 2 0 | 2 0 2 0 0 | 9 9 10 9 7 5 5 7 5 4.

87

Musical notation for measures 87-92. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with strings G, A, and B indicated. The fretting sequence is: 2 5 5 3 2 3 0 0 | 0 12 12 14 12 10 9 9 9 10 9 7 | 10 8 7 8 5 5 5 4 4.

93

Musical notation for measures 93-100. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with strings G, A, and B indicated. The fretting sequence is: 5 5 4 4 2 0 0 | 2 2 0 0 2 2 0 2 | 5 3 2 5 0 2 0.

101

Musical notation for measures 101-107. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with strings G, A, and B indicated. The fretting sequence is: 0 0 6 9 7 5 5 5 4 | 5 5 4 4 2 2 0 0 | 10 9 9.

108

Musical notation for measures 108-114. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with strings G, A, and B indicated. The fretting sequence is: 0 2 0 7 9 6 0 7 5 2 4 | 2 14 12 0 7 0 0 0.

Pachelbel's Canon

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Second Ukulele

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Second Ukulele Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

arr Thomas Preece

Musical notation for measures 1-15. The system includes a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The guitar part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff. The guitar part uses a C chord shape. The bass part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff, and uses a C chord shape. The notation shows the first five notes of the canon in the treble and the corresponding fret numbers in the bass.

Musical notation for measures 16-21. The system includes a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The guitar part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff. The guitar part uses a C chord shape. The bass part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff, and uses a C chord shape. The notation shows the next five notes of the canon in the treble and the corresponding fret numbers in the bass.

Musical notation for measures 22-26. The system includes a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The guitar part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff. The guitar part uses a C chord shape. The bass part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff, and uses a C chord shape. The notation shows the next five notes of the canon in the treble and the corresponding fret numbers in the bass.

Musical notation for measures 27-30. The system includes a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The guitar part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff. The guitar part uses a C chord shape. The bass part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff, and uses a C chord shape. The notation shows the next four notes of the canon in the treble and the corresponding fret numbers in the bass.

Musical notation for measures 31-36. The system includes a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The guitar part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff. The guitar part uses a C chord shape. The bass part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff, and uses a C chord shape. The notation shows the next six notes of the canon in the treble and the corresponding fret numbers in the bass.

Musical notation for measures 37-42. The system includes a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). The guitar part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff. The guitar part uses a C chord shape. The bass part is shown with a capo on the 8th fret, indicated by an '8' above the staff, and uses a C chord shape. The notation shows the final six notes of the canon in the treble and the corresponding fret numbers in the bass.

Second Ukulele

42

9 5 7 9 0 0 0 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 0 2 3 0 2 2 0 4 5 5 7 9 10 7 9 10 12

45

9 5 7 9 7 5 7 4 5 7 9 7 5 4 5 2 4 5 0 2 2 0 2 5 4 5 2 5 4 2 0 0 2 0 2 4 5

48

2 5 4 5 4 2 4 5 7 5 4 5 2 4 5 4 2 5 2 2 2 0

53

0 0 2 0 0 2 7 9 6 7 6 0 7 9 7 5 2 2 0 0 0

59

2 2 4 2 0 0 0 2 2 2 4 4 4 5 7 5 4 4 5 4 2 2 2 4 5 7 10 9 9 0 2 4 2 0 6 9

64

10 10 9 10 7 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 2 2 0 0 7 4

69

0 9 9 9 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 12 12 12 12 14 14 14 14 12 12 12 12 14 14 14 14 16 4 4 4

Second Ukulele

4

73

Musical notation for measures 73-76. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with numbers 0-9. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

77

Musical notation for measures 77-80. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with numbers 0-9. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

81

Musical notation for measures 81-87. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with numbers 0-9. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

88

Musical notation for measures 88-93. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with numbers 0-9. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

94

Musical notation for measures 94-99. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with numbers 0-9. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

100

Musical notation for measures 100-106. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with numbers 0-9. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

107

Musical notation for measures 107-112. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff shows guitar-style fretting with numbers 0-9. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Pachelbel's Canon

arranged for ukulele ensemble by Thomas Preece

Third Ukulele

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Third Ukulele Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

arr Thomas Preece

12

12

20

26

31

35

41

Third Ukulele

4

77

Musical notation for measures 77-80. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a guitar/bass staff with a 9/8 time signature. The guitar/bass staff contains fret numbers for both hands: 5 2 0 2 2 1 4 5 7 4 2 2 4 5 2 4 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0.

81

Musical notation for measures 81-84. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a guitar/bass staff with a 9/8 time signature. The guitar/bass staff contains fret numbers for both hands: 2 5 4 5 2 0 0 2 4 0 2 5 7 9 5 9 9 7 5 4 2 2 0 2 4 5 9 7 5 9 10 10 9 7 7 0 0 0.

85

Musical notation for measures 85-92. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a guitar/bass staff with a 9/8 time signature. The guitar/bass staff contains fret numbers for both hands: 0 0 2 0 3 0 2 2 1 2 5 4 2 0 2 0 2 0 0.

93

Musical notation for measures 93-98. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a guitar/bass staff with a 9/8 time signature. The guitar/bass staff contains fret numbers for both hands: 9 9 10 9 7 5 5 5 7 5 4 2 5 5 3 2 3 0 0 0 12 12 14 12 10 9 9 9 10 9 7.

99

Musical notation for measures 99-105. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a guitar/bass staff with a 9/8 time signature. The guitar/bass staff contains fret numbers for both hands: 10 8 7 8 5 5 5 4 4 5 5 4 4 2 0 0 2 2 0 0 2 2 0.

106

Musical notation for measures 106-112. The system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a guitar/bass staff with a 9/8 time signature. The guitar/bass staff contains fret numbers for both hands: 5 3 2 5 0 2 0 0 0 9 7 5 5 5 4 5.