

# Madame R.Sidney Prattens GUITAR SCHOOL,

bloudesta

Containing TWO HUNDRED & THIRTY SIX EXAMPLES, in cluding

Progressive Lessons & Fourteen Songs in various Keys.

DIAGRAM OF THE NOTES ON THE FINGERBOARD.

Explanation of the various peculiarities & beauties of the Instrument,

SCALES IN DIFFERENT KEYS IN THIRDS, SIXTHS, OCTAVES, & TENTHS,

with their Chords and Arpeggios.

EXERCISES FOR THE RIGHT & LEFT HANDS. REMARKS ON TOUCH, TONE & EXPRESSION.

with Diagram, shewing the proper position of the Right Hand

# Lithographic Frontispiece showing the manner of -HOLDING THE CUITAR.

Diagrams of Harmonics.

Shewing the various ways of production. CONCLUDING WITH A

Choice Selection of Pieces,

FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE MOST APPROVED COMPOSERS.

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## THE GUITAR.

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This charming and graceful instrument is capable of much execution, intense pa--thos and a variety of effects peculiarly its own, and is also admirably adapted as an accompaniment to the voice.

An eminent composer in eulogysing the merits of the Guitar, says with much truth "that although it has not the power of some large instruments, it has a revenge in its delicate sweetness and sympathetic tones."

The Guitar has six strings three Silver and three Gut which are tuned in fourths and thirds. thus:



Upon these six strings a scale of three octaves and four notes is obtained with all the intermediate semitones.

There are charming effects produced by tuning the 6th string down to D, and sometimes up to F, according to the key of the piece to be played, thus giving weight and richness to the fundamental chord. Examples of which I shall give in due course.

The Guitar is, for certain brilliant effects, volubility of tone, and extended resource in harmonics, sometimes tuned in E major. thus:

for that method of tuning the instrument it will be unnecessary to treat of it in the present work.

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#### METHOD OF TUNING THE GUITAR.

Strings to be tuned thus, in unison with the notes of the Piano written under them, which will shew that the Guitar sounds an octave lower than the notation.



As this work is intended to treat of all the peculiarities of the Guitar, I shall presume that the Student has become acquainted with the rudiments of music in order to devote space to matter relating more particularly to the instrument.

Amongst the effects of which the Guitar is capable may be mentioned the following viz: Glissè, Slurs, Harmonics, Arpeggios, Dash, Nails, Twirl, Tremolo, Vibrato, Drum, Etouffè, Shake and Turn, Corni, Cantabile, together with the most brilliant execution.



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SLURS are done by the left hand some being struck and others pulled whilst the tone is sustained.

Examples to be STRUCK, which apply only to ascending passages\_



It must be understood that the first note of each of the above examples Nos: 1.2. & 3. is struck with the right hand; the others are obtained by striking with the fingers of the *left hand* whilst the string is sounding.

Examples to be PULLED. which apply only to descending passages -

The first note of Nos 4 5 & 6 is struck with the right hand the others are pulled with the fingers of the left hand.

Examples, in which slurs struck and pulled are combined \_



The first and third notes of No 8, are struck with the right hand, but the first note only of Nos 9, & 10 are struck with the right hand, whilst the others are obtained by striking and pulling with the fingers of the left hand.

HARMONICS are sounds made by touching the strings with the fingers of the left hand without pressure, and striking with the right hand with more than ordinary force and near the bridge to obtain fullness and brilliancy of tone. The best harmonics are produced by touching over the III, IV, V, VII, IX & XII<sup>th</sup> frets.

There are other Harmonics which are produced in the following manner and are known as "double stopping" or "à double doigter." The fingers of the left hand must be pressed on the notes desired to be heard an octave higher, then touch the *middle* of the string with the thumb of the right hand and strike under with the first finger of the same hand. For Examples see pages 68 & 69.

ARPEGGIOS are passages formed of the notes of chords taken in succession after the manner of the Harp thus:



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The DASH is a name of my own adoption for a mode of striking two or more notes, or a chord, with only one finger at a time over as many notes as constitute the passage or chord intended to be played, and is expressed by a line being drawn through the notes or chords thus:



Another mode is by alternating the thumb and first finger. thus:

4



NAILS, expressed thus is an effect produced in chords by the back of the nails running lightly across the strings in rapid succession begining with the lowest note. TWIRL expressed thus is an agreeable mode of playing a full chord by placing the thumb on the face of the instrument about an inch above the sounding hole, and allowing all the fingers to sweep the strings in succession, like describing a semicircle with a pair of compasses, commencing with the little finger; the thumb forming the centre.

TREMOLO is the rapid reiteration of a note or notes thus:



It will be seen by the above examples Nos 16, 17, 18 & 19, that there are many ways of fingering reiterate notes which are applicable to every string.

No time should be lost in acquiring these fingerings, as they are the means by which a free action of the right hand is obtained.

VIBRATO marked thus w or w over certain notes in expressive passages, and is produced by a tremulous movement of the fingers of the left hand during the vibration of the string. NB. This does not apply to open strings.

DRUM is an effect peculiar to the Guitar (as an imitation) and is produced by raising the right hand six or eight inches from the sounding board and allowing the side of the thumb to fall across the strings near the bridge, with a decided spring and free action of the wrist and not from the elbow, the latter being awkward and ungraceful.

The Drum is indicated by -Dr. +, or Tambour. M<sup>me</sup> R.S. PRATTEN'S Guitar School. ETOUFFE indicates that the notes or chords to which this expression applies, must be damped or stifled instantly by the same fingers with which they are struck, or the entire hand placed flat on the strings. The effect is thus:



SHAKE. There are two ways of making a shake; sometimes on one string on the principle of the Slur, and on two strings in the following manner.



CORNI an effect produced by the points of the nails of the right hand close to the Bridge imitating the sound of Horns or Bugles. It is also obtained by striking with great force, using the thumb and first finger without the nails, also close to the bridge.

Example with the nails of the first and second fingers (imitating Horns at a distance)



Example with the thumb and first finger without the nails, which will be found to produce a different quality of tone.\_\_



Another amusing effect can be obtained in imitation of a single horn, by playing a succession of notes upon one of the silver strings with the first finger nail.



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• The above Diagram represents the neck of the Guitar with all the notes as they are to be found on each string and fret.

#### TO HOLD THE CUITAR.

The most elegant position for a Lady is to place the left foot on a foot-stool about nine inches in height, and allow the instrument to rest on the lap. (see portrait.)

#### POSITION OF THE RIGHT HAND AND STRIKING THE STRINGS.

First place the little finger on the sounding-board about two inches above the bridge. Place the thumb on the large silver E string, raise the wrist about two inches and a half so as to enable the three fingers to fall easily on the three Gut strings, then place the first finger on the G string the second on the B string and the third finger on the E string. The fingers are then ready to strike when required.

#### TO FORM THE POSITION OF THE RIGHT HAND.

It is advisable that when any of the three fingers are used, viz: . : : without the thumb, the thumb should rest on one of the silver strings, and also, if the thumb alone is striking a succession of notes on the silver strings, the three fingers should rest on the gut strings, as shown in the frontispiece.

As the beauty of the Guitar consists in a pure tone, free from twang and jarring the secret in its production is the proper position of the right hand, and method of striking the strings. The 1st 2nd & 3rd fingers (.::) should therefore be raised gently from the strings towards the palm of the hand, and on the contrary, the thumb (taking its position about an inch higher than the first finger,) must pass from one silver string to the next without raising it. - see Diagram. 2 page 44.

#### OF THE LEFT HAND.

The tips of the fingers are used in stopping, the first and second joints being generally bent.

With few exceptions, as a general rule, the first joint only of the thumb should rest on the back of the neck directly opposite the fret upon which the second finger is employed, and as the hand traverses the fingerboard the thumb must follow in the same position. But in "Barre" the thumb is placed immediately behind the first finger so as to command a greater pressure on the fingerboard.



SCALE OF THE GUITAR.

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Note B. It will be found that in the elementary part of this work some passages are marked with letters over or under them. The letters will indicate the strings upon which the notes are to be found, and will greatly facilitate the pupil in learning the notes in their various positions. The following



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\* To assist the pupil in the selection of easy songs, I shall recommend at certain intervals some that will be found interesting.

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Pietre e matoni E sai quanti trogoli Di gesso e di calcina Dei prima consumar Davvero davvero. etc.

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A.S. PRAMENS GUILAR SCHOOL

## FAIR SHINES THE MOON. LA DONNA E MOBILE.



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### "THE WINDS ARE HUSH'D TO REST."

WORDS BY CEORCE LINLEY.

ARRANGED BY MME R. SIDNEY PRATTEN.

MUSIC BY CAMPANA.



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THE SUMMER BLOOM HAT'S PASS'D.



21)

#### ARRANGED BY MMER. S. PRATTEN.

MUSIC BY CAROLINE HAY.







MM: R.S. PRATTEN'S Guitar School.





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"LIGHTLY O'ER THE BREEZE OF EV'NING"











## TOUCH, TONE, AND EXPRESSION

As the charm of the Guitar consists in bringing out a round full tone, and varying the quality according to the style of music, or phrasing, either with energy or brilliancy, or pathos and expression, (not merely making sounds which only touch the ear, but producing such tones that shall touch the feelings,) the preceding diagram 2 will shew where the varied qualities of tone can be produced.

To strike the strings of the guitar in a matter-of-fact way is anything but pleasing, and indeed has given many a dislike to the instrument; but to admirers of the guitar even a few notes or chords well produced, or played, have an indescribable charm.

The secret of good guitar playing is to prevent jarring and twanging.

Jarring is avoided by placing the fingers of the left hand near the frets and pressing them tightly.

Twanging is caused by striking the string too violently and in the wrong direction, and also by the fingers or back of the nails coming in contact with the strings whilst in vibration. It is also necessary that the nails should not be too long as only the fleshy part of the finger should strike the string.

In slow and pathetic music, in single and sometimes double notes the vibrato and glisse may be introduced with effect. To make the vibrato the string should be struck as at Ex: D or E – of Diagram 2.



the last chord of the above an elegant effect is produced by striking it thus \_

6th String down to D.  
Strike the following 4 strings 
$$ff = C$$
.  
as marked in Diagram 2. Ex: A.

It will be observed that I vary the size of the pauses in order to shew that the notes are to be prolonged as the size increases.

The fingers should be placed at once on the strings as if the chord were to be struck at once, then place the hand at Example A in Diagram 2, striking the 1st bass note with the thumb with great force then gliding the hand to Example C striking the next note with less power, and again carry the remaining two fingers which are still resting on the strings to Example D and strike the third note with still less power than its predecessor, and lastly the third finger is carried up as before to Example E and striking the string so softly, as it were a breath.

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note as centing in a Detteren Dart of the Shing this I observed

MIL R. S. PRATTEN'S Guitar School. i Mad. D.S. playing

The following few bars taken from Sor which will be found at the end of the work page 71, are given as a specimen to shew the varied expression that can be made in a few successive bars by striking the strings in the different parts.



Also for imitating horns or bugies, on the gut strings strike	at	EX: A.	
For forte and double forte	at	Ex: B.	
For general playing	at	Ex: C.	
For Dolce or soft tone	at	Ex:D.	
For Pianissimo	at	Ex:E.	

## EXERCISES FOR THE RIGHT HAND.



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## EXERCISES IN VARIOUS POSITIONS.

The positions are generally defined by whatever fret the first finger falls upon, so that, if the first finger is on the first fret, the second, third, and fourth fingers will naturally find their places on the second, third, and fourth frets; the hand is then said to be in the 1st Position, and all the notes within reach from the 1st to the  $4^{t,h}$  frets belong to that position.

And again \_ when the first finger is placed upon the fifth fret, the second, third and fourth fingers will find their places on the sixth, seventh and eighth frets \_ this is called the  $5^{th}$  Position.

The same remarks apply to the other frets as will be seen in the following pages.

It will be observed by referring to the Diagram of the Fingerboard at page 6 that upon the Guitar there are many duplicate notes; written the same, but can be played on different strings and various parts of the Instrument; for instance, the note G written on the second line can be played on four different parts. thus:\_



And when any notes of the scale (some of which are only to be found once, others 2, 3 and 4 times) are intended to be played out of their usual places, that is, on other parts of the fingerboard (either because they are more convenient, or to produce a different or better effect) they are generally marked in positions with roman numerals thus I. III. V. VII. IX. &c &c but when the notes are no longer to be played in the positions indicated by roman figures the word "tooo" is used to signify that they are to be taken in their usual places.

Example 109 will shew how the four following notes may be taken separately in various parts of the fingerboard and Example 110 how the same four notes taken together (forming a chord) are found in different positions.



The above notes in their various positions will be clearly seen by referring to Diagram  $I_{-}$  page 6.

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MINE R.S. PRATTEN'S Guitar School.

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## HARMONICS.

There are various ways of expressing and writing harmonics as will be seen by the followig extracts from some of the best composers for the instrument. Each having adopted a different method.\_\_



TABLE OF HARMONICS.

To produce a clear harmonic tone it is necessary to place the fingers exactly over the fret, excepting only those on the 3rd fret, when the fingers must be about three eighths of an inch lower  $\_$  and in all instances to produce a full note the string must be struck near the bridge and with greater than ordinary force, and the left hand finger should be instantly raised to allow the string full vibration.

\* Remember the Guitar sounds an octave lower than the notation. See page 2.

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Example 216 gives the actual sound of the harmonics, but without showing upon which strings they are to be taken, only giving the frets, so it is presumed by the writer that the pupil is acquainted with the *natural* harmonics of the Guitar as in Diagram 4. page 65.



Example 217 gives a mode adopted by many writers, which I consider unnecessarily complicated \_ The upper line of figures signify the frets \_ The notes are those which would be produced by pressure in the ordinary way, but it is intended that they should be played as harmonics without pressure. The figures under the notes indicate the strings to be struck.



In Example 218 no guide is given by the author either by frets or strings, but the notes will be seen in Diagram 3. page 65.



66

Mar J Lato

malka



The harmonics of the following Example will be found in Diagram 3.

The following is the most satisfactory mode of writing harmonics, because the small notes above, shew what notes are produced. for Example\_



In the above example the large notes indicate the strings to be used, the figures the frets, and the rings (000) that they are harmonics.

Another mode of writing harmonics found in Legnani's Trente Six Caprices Op. 20. wherein he writes the actual sounds of which he intends the harmonics to produce \_ The frets are indicated by figures above, and the strings in like manner below \_ These harmonics will be found in Diagram 4.

Written thus The notes indicate the Strings and the figures Frets. 221 7 12 12 7 12 12 12 12 12 12 Solution 120 9 17 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

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LEGNANI. Op. 20.

The annexed Diagram 5. is to shew how harmonics are produced by double fingering (a double doigter) therefore, if it is desired to hear either of the open strings an octave higher in harmonics, the thumb of the right hand must be placed lightly over the 12th fret in such position as to allow the first finger to strike under, and at least three frets distant from the thumb \_ This will be the exact centre or half length of the strings, and should the first fret be stopped, the octave or half will be found on the 13th fret \_ The 2nd on the 14th \_ the 3rd on the 15th and so on. see below.



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In writing harmonics "a double doigter" the notes stopped by the left hand are used, but of course by striking (in the manner before described) with the right hand on the corrisponding fret, on, or beyond the 12th. the octave sound (in harmonic) is produced, although, be it understood, the left hand notation is retained as Example G in Diagram 5. page 68.

Thus; the passage in Ex: 224 5th bar. written sounds sounds and is produced by the left hand stopping the 1st. fret, 2nd. string, whilst the thumb of the right hand is placed on the 13th fret of the same string and is struck with the first finger.





Some writers for the Guitar have endeavoured to produce effects by raising or lowering the 6th and 5th strings to suit the key in which the music is set, to obtain depth of tone; this applies more particularly to the key of D to which the 6th string E is lowered — the following is an Example.



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Cadenza ad lib:

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\* To those sufficiently advanced I recommend the study of this charming composition as well as most of his works. Giuliani was the most prolific writer of his day \_\_ his Exercises Op: 48. 71. and 148 in Two Books \_\_ and Douze Divertisments Op: 56. and Grand Variations on Partant pour la Syrie Op: 104 may be specially recommended. Mm<sup>o</sup> R.S. PRATTEN'S Guitar School.





