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Beginning Strumming Techniques

TABLATURE

The symbols (also called Tablature) for the right hand are as follows:  - Strike the strings in a motion towards the high register strings. You can use either your thumb (Figure 6a) or your finger(s) (Figure 6b). I suggest you use your thumb, especially when you are striking the lower register strings. If you use your finger(s), hold them at a slight angle as you strum toward the higher register. This helps to avoid getting them caught in the strings.

 - Strike the strings in a motion towards the lower register strings (Figure 7). Use your finger(s) only.

Before you begin the strumming exercises, practice pressing the chord buttons and strumming across the strings. For example, firmly press the F major chord bar with your middle or index finger. Strum across the strings several times with your thumb. Keep your wrist loose and your elbows raised slightly; create an arc-like movement as your thumb moves quickly across the strings (Figure 8). On the next page are two songs to help you become familiar with strumming and pressing the chord bars.

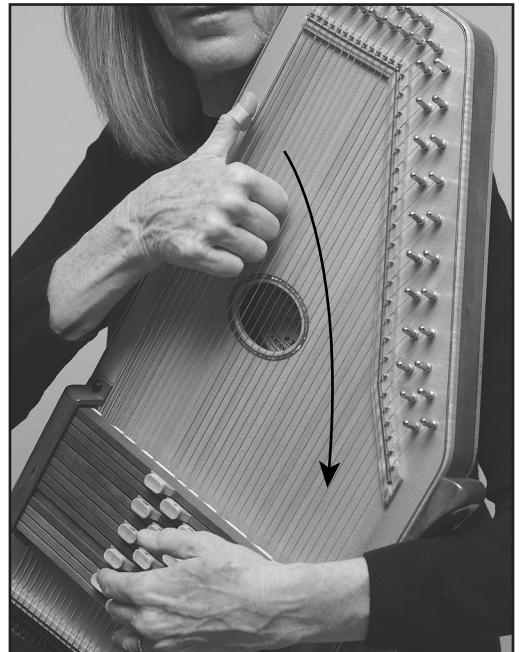


Figure 6a.



Figure 6b.



Figure 7.

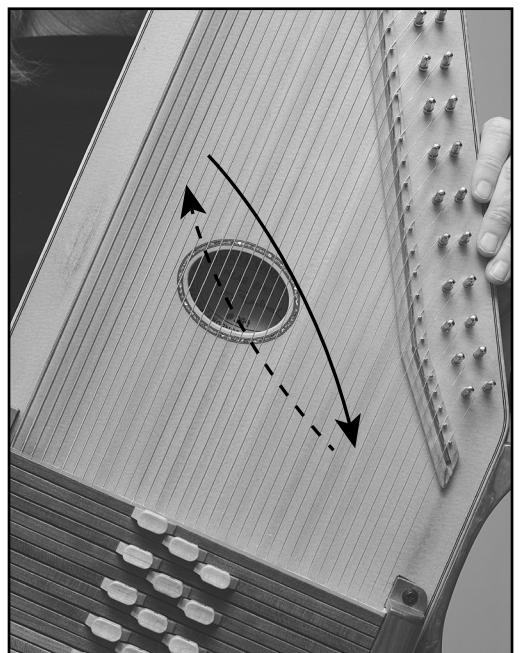


Figure 8.

DRUNKEN SAILOR



Track 50

Chords: Dm, Am, C

The musical score consists of six staves of music for a single voice. The first two staves are in 2/4 time, while the remaining four are in 3/4 time. The key signature is one flat, indicating F major or D minor. The vocal line includes several melodic phrases and a chorus section.

Chords:

- Staff 1: Dmin (at beginning), C (at end)
- Staff 2: Dmin (at beginning), C (at end)
- Staff 3: Amin, Dmin, chorus
- Staff 4: C
- Staff 5: Dmin
- Staff 6: Dmin

Lyrics:

What shall we do with a drunk-en sail - or, what shall we do with a
drunk-en sail - or, what shall we do with a drunk-en sail - or,
ear - ly in the morn - ing?
Hoo - ray and
up she ris - es, hoo - ray and up she ris - es,
hoo - ray and up she ris - es, ear - ly in the morn - ing.

2. Put him in the longboat until he's sober...
3. Scrape his belly with a rusty razor...
4. Put him in the bilge and make him drink it...
5. Keelhaul him until he's sober...
6. Heave him by the leg in a running bowline...