

'Greensleeves'

Key of 'A' Minor

Line 1

	Am	G	F	E
1		0		
2	0 1 3	3 0 0	1	0
3	2	0 2	2 2 1 2	1
4	2			2 2
5	0 0			
6		3 3	1 1	0 0
	2 3 0 1 4 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 3 3 1 2	0 1 3 2
	0 0	3 3	1 1	0 0

Line 2

	Am	G	F	E	Am
1		0			
2	0 1 3	3 0 0	1 0		
3	2	0 2	2 1 1	2 2	
4			4	2 2	
5	0 0			0 0	
6		3 3	1 0		
	3 0 1 4 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 0 3 1 4 1	3 2 3	
	0 0	3 3	1 0	0 2	

Line 3

	C	G	F	E
1	3 3 3 2 0			
2		3 0 0	1	0
3		0 2	2 2 1 2	1
4				2
5	3 3			
6		3 3	1 1	0 0
	4 4 4 2 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 3 3 1 2	0 1 3
	3 3	3 3	1 1	0 0

Line 4

	C	G	F	E	Am
1	3 3 3 2 0				
2		3 0 0	1 0		0
3		0 2	2 1 1	2 2 2	
4				4	2 2
5	3 3				0 0
6		3 3	1 0		
	4 4 4 2 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 0 3 1 4 1	3 2 3 2 0	
	3 3	3 3	1 0	0 2	

Line 5

	F	E	Am	Am
1				
2	1 0			
3	2 1 1	2 2		
4		4	2 2	
5			0 0	
6	1 0			
	2 0 3 1 4 1	3 2		
	1 0	0		

'Greensleeves' - Performance Notes (1)

Written in England sometime in the 1500's, '*Greensleeves*' remains one of the world's best-known folk songs. The following pages feature a detailed, section by section approach on how to play each line, along with a summary section on how to fine tune the arrangement once it is memorized.

Approach to Practice

Initially, the idea of playing a complete version of '*Greensleeves*' by memory may seem too great of a challenge. The proper approach will be to memorize one section, and then one line at a time. Students will typically spend a few days practicing one line before moving on to the next. Regardless of how long it takes to memorize a certain section or line, the key is to first establish a solid foundation before learning additional parts. With its classical influence, the obvious choice for a guitar to play for '*Greensleeves*' would be a classical guitar with nylon strings, however a steel-string acoustic will work just as well.

Fingerstyle Technique

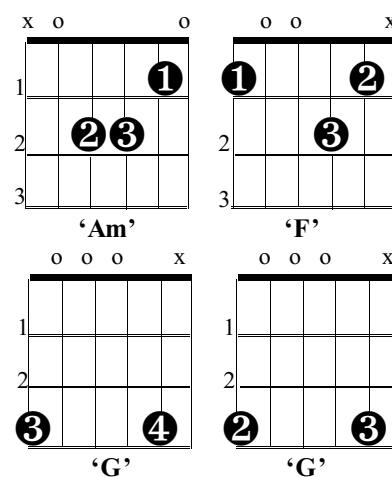
Proper *fingerstyle technique* will be applied throughout the entire piece, by assigning the first, second, and third fingers to pluck the third, second, and first strings respectively. The thumb is assigned to pluck either the fourth, fifth, or sixth strings. With proper fingerstyle technique, the right hand will remain steady and in position, allowing the primary focus to shift to chord changes with the fretting hand.

Line 1

	Am	G	F	E
1		0		
2	0 1 3	3 0 0	1	0
3	2	0 2	2 2 1 2	1
4	2			2 2
5	0 0			
6		3 3	1 1	0 0
	2 3 0 1 4 0 0 0	4 0 0 2 0 3 3	2 3 3 1 2 1 1	0 1 3 2 0 0

Sections 1-2 To start, fret with a standard 'Am' chord shape, temporarily lifting the first finger to play the open second string. The last two notes of section 1 are a two-note '*lead-in*' to section 2. (This '*lead-in*' is a slight variation from the original melody that works well for this arrangement.) The 'G' chord in section 2 is an *alternate 'G' chord shape* that can be fretted with either the third and fourth fingers (which allow the fretting hand to remain steady and in position), or with the second and third fingers (which provide better tone by using stronger fingers to fret with).

Sections 3-4 The unique 'F' chord shape allows for better clarity from each string. In section 4, use a standard 'E' chord shape to fret all notes played, with the right hand first finger plucking both the third and fourth strings. The last note played can be considered a '*lead-in*' note to Line 2.



Using Chord Shapes Before going to Line 2, make sure all of Line 1 can be played by memory. To make each section less challenging to play, approach *each section as a chord shape* ('Am - G - F - E') rather than fretting notes individually. Doing so keeps the fretting hand in steady and in position throughout each section, and will help in developing a better sense of the overall *arrangement* to '*Greensleeves*'.

'Greensleeves' - Performance Notes (2)

Line 2

	Am	G	F	E	Am
1					
2	0 1 3	3 0	1 0		
3	2	0 2	2 1 1		2 2
4				4	2 2
5	0 0				0 0
6		3 3	1 0		
	3 0 1 4 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 0 3 1 4 1		3 2 3
	0 0	3 3	1 0		0 2

Section 1-2 The first two sections ('Am' and 'G') are identical to the first two sections of Line 1.

Sections 3-4 The 'F-E' sequence is played at an *even four-beat tempo*, with the first three beats/notes using the 'F' chord shape, and the fourth beat requiring a swift transition to the 'E' shape. In section 4, the thumb strums the final 'Am' chord.

Line 3

	C	G	F	E
1	3 3 3 2 0			
2		3 0	1	0
3		0 2	2 2 1 2	1
4				2
5	3 3			
6		3 3	1 1	0 0
	4 4 4 2 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 3 3 1 2	0 1 3
	3 3	3 3	1 1	0 0

Sections 1-2 The 'C' and 'G' chord shapes can be fretted with either the third and fourth fingers to keep the fretting hand in position, or with the stronger second and third fingers for better tone.

<p>C</p>	<p>G</p>	(or)	<p>C</p>	<p>G</p>
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Line 4

	C	G	F	E	Am
1	3 3 3 2 0				
2		3 0	1 0		
3		0 2	2 1 1		2 2
4				4	2 2
5	3 3				0 0
6		3 3	1 0		
	4 4 4 2 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 0 3 1 4 1		3 2 3
	3 3	3 3	1 0		0 2

For Line 4, the first two sections are identical to the first two sections of Line 3. The last two sections are identical to the last two sections of Line 2. Use the thumb to strum the final 'Am' chord.

'Greensleeves' - Performance Notes (3)

Arrangement Notes

Lines 1 & 2 are considered the Verse. Lines 3 & 4 are considered the Chorus. Using letter names to identify each different section, the complete Verse-Chorus *arrangement* can be summarized as shown right.

Arrangement by Section

Verse: 'A' - 'B' - 'A' - 'C'
Chorus: 'D' - 'B' - 'D' - 'C'

Line 5

After a two-note lead-in, Line 5 essentially revisits the 'F' and 'E' chord sections to be used as an ending. Use the thumb to strum the final 'Am' chord. (Some may prefer to strum additional strings for the final 'Am' chord.)

Tab Example

	F	E	Am	Am
1				
2	0	1 0		
3	2	2 1 1	2 2	2
4		4	2 2	2
5			0 0	0
6	1	0		
	2 0	2 0 3	1 4 1	3 2
	1	0	0	

Summary

Putting It All Together After gradually learning a section at a time, the focus now shifts to playing 'Greensleeves' in its entirety *by memory*. Regardless of how slowly it is played, the first step is to simply be able to perform the complete piece without relying on written notation. When trying to do this, there will obviously be occasional mistakes with playing incorrect notes. As long as it is known what *should* be played, the percentage of incorrect notes will eventually decrease with continuous practice of the complete arrangement.

'80-20' Focus The eyes should be focused on the left (*fretting*) hand about **80 percent** of the time, while only focusing on the right (*plucking*) hand **20 percent** of the time. Many beginners tend to focus too much on the right hand, which often results in the left hand not being positioned properly to fret chords. Remember that when using *basic fingerstyle technique* that the plucking fingers are already properly positioned or *aligned* over each string, which allows the eyes to focus more on the fretting hand for chord changes.

Improving Speed Focusing on speed isn't necessary as speed will naturally develop through the repetition of practicing playing correct notes with clarity. A common expression used in learning music is that *'slow is fast'*, which means practicing anything correct and with clarity results in less errors and less 'start-overs'. Less mistakes results in 'getting' the overall picture of a song sooner.

Tempo Once 'Greensleeves' can be played with minimal errors and clarity, the final challenge will be to focus on *tempo*, which is maintaining a steady and consistent beat throughout the entire song. There are six beats per measure, with the fifth and sixth string bass notes played every first and fourth beats. The Tab below shows how to count through Line 1.

	Am	G	F	E
(count)	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6
1		0		
2	0 1 3	3 0 0	1	0
3	2	0 2	2 2 1 2	1
4	2			2 2
5	0 0			
6		3 3	1 1	0 0
	2 3 0 1 4 0	4 0 0 2 0	2 3 3 1 2	0 1 3 2
	0 0	3 3	1 1	0 0