

Silent Night Guitar Ensemble Teacher Tips

There are four parts for Silent Night--the three written out, plus chording. I put this song in the key of E because it made the finger picking part easy to play.

Finger picking top part: all notes are on the top three strings (1, 2, 3). Thumb plays string 3, index finger plays string 2, middle finger plays string 1. The picking pattern is the same for all of the chords. The students can practice the picking pattern without fretting to get used to the pattern.

Teach each of the three different positions as prep exercises. Show them, or have them figure it out from the tablature where to place finger(s) on the frets for each chord. When playing the chords using 2 notes in fret two, there are two different positions (B7 chord and A chord). Show the students how to put both fingers down and leave them in place as they finger pick.

After they are familiar with the finger picking pattern and the chord shapes, practice playing them in the order they occur in the music.

Bass part. The student playing bass has to have good timing and be able to count and feel in three. Very important to have the bass hitting on the downbeat of every measure.

The fourth part is strumming the chords. I hear it as lightly strumming the chords like a quick arpeggio, not a harsh strum. See O Christmas Tree teacher tips for working on the B7 chord.

Let me know how it works!

Top part - finger pick

Silent Night

Intro

Play 4 times

MELODY STARTS

etc. - - - - -

TAB

Rhythm continues

TAB

TAB

TAB

Melody Silent Night

arr. for guitar
B. Reining

INTRO 4 E

meas. rest)

T
A
B

B⁷ E A

T
A
B

E A E

T
A
B

B⁷ E B⁷ E

T
A
B

BASS

Silent Night

arr. guitar.
B. Reinig

Play 4 times

Melody begins

Handwritten notes: d. E d. d. d. d.

T
A
B

0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0

Handwritten notes: B7 d. d. E d. d. A d. d.

T
A
B

2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0

Handwritten notes: E d. d. A d. d. E d. d.

T
A
B

0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0

Handwritten notes: B7 d. d. E d. d. B7 E d. d.

T
A
B

2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0