

My Jesus, I Love Thee Guitar Lesson

With

Jean Welles

Introduction

How to learn with this lesson

I recommend printing these pages. It will be easier to read.

There are three levels to this lesson:

First, for beginning guitar players, the entire song is here with simple chords. You can play it by simple strumming twice in a measure, the music between the bar lines. Sometimes there are more than 2 chords in a measure. Just strum each chord in time with the singing. If you are not sure how chord charts work, there is an explanation at:

christian-guitar-resource.com/praise-and-worship-chords.html

Second* is the music and tab for just the melody line of 'My Jesus, I Love Thee.' In the video, I'm looking at just the music from page 4 and reading up an octave. Music for the guitar actually sounds an octave lower than it's written.

I transcribed it later and added the tab so if you read music, you can just read it on the guitar. If you don't know how to read notes, it's in tab too. If you don't know how to read tab, there is an explanation of how tab works at:

christian-guitar-resource.com/praise-and-worship-tabs.html

Third*, if you know the chords and you can play the melody, then you can make instrumental arrangements. I've written and played an example here. Notice how the notes use pretty much stay around the chords of the song.

In the middle section it moves up to the 5th and 2nd position. (You can find what position you're playing in by what fret the first finger is near. The first fret is the first position. If the first finger is on the 5th fret, that's fifth position, etc.)

In DVD 4 of the Worship Guitar Class Series, one of the lessons is all about how to find bar chords in various families up and down the frets. Every chord on the guitar can be played in many different positions up and down the fretboard. For the new player, this part of the lesson may be a bit too challenging. You can always come back to it after you can play the other simpler chords with ease.

* You can watch a video of these two songs at the blog. Go to JeanWelles.com and type in 'My Jesus Tab'

Simple Arrangement:

Song

MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE

ANONYMOUS

VOICE

D G D A7 D D G

MY JE - SUS I LOVE THEE. I KNOW THOU ART MINE. FOR THEE ALL THE
 I LOVE THEE BE - CAUSE THOU HAST FIRST LOV - ED ME, AND PUR - CHASED MY
 I'LL LOVE THEE IN LIFE. I WILL LOVE THEE IN DEATH, AND PRAISE THEE AS
 IN MAN - SIONS OF GLO - RY AND END - LESS DE - LIGHT. I'LL EV - ER A -

VOICE

D A7 D D G D A D A

FOL - LIES OF SIN I RE - SIGN; MY GRA - COUS RE - DEEM - ER, MY
 PAR - DON ON CAL - VA - RY'S TREE; I LOVE THEE FOR WEAR - ING THE
 LONG AS THOU LEN - EST ME BREATH; AND SAY WHEN THE DEATH - DEW LIES
 DORE THEE IN HEAV - EN SO BRIGHT; I'LL SING WITH THE GLIT - TER - ING

VOICE

D EM D/A A7 D G

SAV - - IOR ART THOU. IF EV - - ER I
 THORNS ON THY BROW, IF EV - - ER I
 COLD ON MY BROW, IFs EV - - ER I
 CROWN ON MY BROW, IF EV - - ER I

VOICE

D EM A7 D

LOVED THEE. MY JE - - SUS, 'TIS NOW.
 LOVED THEE. MY JE - - SUS, 'TIS NOW.
 LOVED THREE. MY JE - - SUS, 'TIS NOW.
 LOVED THEE. MY JE - - SUS, 'TIS NOW.

Patterns:

1. You can use a straight strumming pattern
2. T Strum T Strum works well. Play just a Strum for chords with one beat.
3. T i m i is another good choice with a single pluck for the faster chords.

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Melody with notes & tab

My Jesus, I Love Thee - Melody

The image displays a musical score for the song "My Jesus, I Love Thee" in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a treble clef staff for the melody and a guitar tablature staff below it. The first system covers measures 1-7, the second system covers measures 8-12, and the third system covers measures 13-15. The tablature uses numbers 0-5 to indicate fret positions and includes fingerings such as 3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0, 3, 2, 0, 2, 2, 3, 3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 0, 3, 2. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

Note

I'm walking my index and middle fingers to pluck the notes. It's much better to alternate fingers with your right hand then using the same finger for all the notes. When you get accustomed to 'alternating' you can actually play twice as fast with two fingers.

In Closing

Try making your own arrangements

Why don't you try making an instrumental arrangement too? You can even start with a song in the key of D. Maybe one like 'I Love You Lord.' Try to pluck out the melody first. Once you find the melody, you can play parts of the chord around it. I used the melody in the higher strings, but you can also play the melody with the bass strings and use the higher strings as the accompaniment.

Why not learn the notes too?

You may want to also actually learn all the notes on the guitar. I like 'Solo Guitar Playing' by Frederick Noad. It's available in many music stores or if you can't find it locally, I have it available from the website.

worshipguitarclass.com/Products-Music-Books.html

Fred's book teaches you a few new notes each lesson. You learn by playing quite nice solos - classical, flamenco, baroque, etc. If you use it, you can learn the notes on the entire fingerboard in about 2 years.

I've seen some books called 'Instant Guitar' but they don't work. It's better to learn in increments and really 'own' the knowledge. A Pastor once said he heard that if you do anything an hour a day for two years, you can master it. That makes more sense to me and is what I saw with my students.

I hope this lesson is helpful to you and that you become an awesome guitar player for HIM!!

God Bless,
Jean Welles