

This is an arrangement of Happy Birthday for beginning fingerstyle players. We will start with just the melody on one string. After that a simple bass line will be added. Then we'll add some harmony.

The letters by each note show the right hand fingering (plucking hand).

The letter i means to use your index finger and the letter m stands for middle finger.

Notice how the two fingers constantly alternate.

Happy Birthday

i m i m i m i m i m i

The first system of musical notation is for the first four measures of the piece. It features a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Above the notes are the fingering letters: *i m i m i m i m i m i*. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. The fret numbers for the notes are: 0, 0, 2, 0, 5, 4, 0, 0, 2, 0, 7.

5 *m i m i m i m i m i m i*

The second system of musical notation continues the piece from measure 5. It features a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Above the notes are the fingering letters: *m i m i m i m i m i m i*. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. The fret numbers for the notes are: 5, 0, 0, 12, 9, 5, 4, 2, 10, 10, 9, 5, 7, 5.

Now we'll add a simple bass line.

The chords that would be used for Happy Birthday in this key are A,D, and E.

The bass notes used here are just the roots of the chords.

We'll use the open strings A,D, and low E.

These bass notes will be plucked with your thumb which is indicated by the letter *p*.

Strike the bass note on the first beat of each full measure simultaneously with the first melody note of each measure. Let it ring for a full 3 beats. The only exception is the next to last measure.

10

i m i m i m i m i m i

p p p p p p p p p p p

TAB: 0 0 | 2 0 5 | 4 0 0 | 2 0 7

14

m i m i m i m i m i m i

p p p p p p p p p p p

TAB: 5 0 0 | 12 9 5 | 4 2 10 10 | 9 5 7 | 5

Now we will add some harmony.

Each melody note is now played along with another note below it.

Use your index and middle fingers to strike these notes at the same time.

This is indicated by the letters *m* and *i* above the harmonized melody on the first line. Maintain this through the rest of the song.

The open string bass notes are still played with the thumb.

19

i *m* *m* *i* *m* *i* *i* *m* *m* *i* *m* *m* *i*

0 0 | 2 0 5 | 4 0 0 | 2 0 7
 2 2 5 | 5 0 0 | 3 0 9
 0 | 0 | 0 | 0

23

5 0 0 | 12 9 5 | 4 2 10 10 | 9 5 7 | 5
 5 2 2 | 14 10 5 | 5 3 12 12 | 10 5 9 | 5
 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0