

# READING TABLATURE

Ukulele Tuesdays – Evergreen Library

June 18, 2019

1



# **PLAYING MUSIC IS MORE THAN JUST MEMORIZING A BUNCH OF CHORDS ON YOUR INSTRUMENT.**

That's difficult. And takes a long time.

# TABLATURE

- Tablature (or tab for short) is a form of musical notation indicating instrument fingering rather than musical pitches
- Requires some sheet-music reading knowledge
- Indicates strums, single notes, and plucked strings
- Allows for playing more complicated music with your instrument

Greensleaves

Andante

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'Greensleaves' by William Byrd. It is marked 'Andante' and 'mf'. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff with a 3/4 time signature and a guitar tablature staff below it. The tablature staff has three lines labeled T, A, and B. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and fingerings (1, 3, 4, 3, 0, 1, 3). A 'CII' marking is present above the staff, and a 'mf' dynamic marking is below the first measure.



# TABLATURE VS. MUSIC NOTATION

## Greensleves

Andante

Standard music notation

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Greensleves' by John Dowland. It consists of two staves. The top staff is in standard musical notation, featuring a treble clef, a 3/4 time signature, and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The melody is written on a single staff with various note values and rests. The bottom staff is a ukulele tablature, with four lines labeled T (top), A (second), B (third), and B (bottom). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 0-4 above the notes. A 'CII' marking is placed above the second measure of the tablature. Red arrows point from the text labels on the left to their respective staves.

Ukulele fingering notation  
matching the musical notes  
directly above and their  
corresponding duration



# BASIC MUSIC NOTATION

Tempo → Andante

Volume → *mf*

Greensleaves

Notes

Arpeggio (strum)

Time Signature

Measure

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Greensleaves'. It consists of two staves. The upper staff is a treble clef staff containing musical notation with notes, rests, and fingerings (1, 3, 4, 3, 4). A 'CII' marking is positioned above the second measure. The lower staff is a guitar tablature staff with fret numbers (0, 3, 5, 7, 8, 7, 5, 3, 2, 4, 4, 3, 0, 2, 3, 0, 2, 2) and a time signature of 3/4. Annotations with arrows point to various elements: 'Tempo' points to 'Andante', 'Volume' points to '*mf*', 'Time Signature' points to the 3/4 signature, 'Measure' points to a bracketed section of the tablature, 'Notes' points to notes in the treble staff, and 'Arpeggio (strum)' points to a strummed chord in the treble staff.

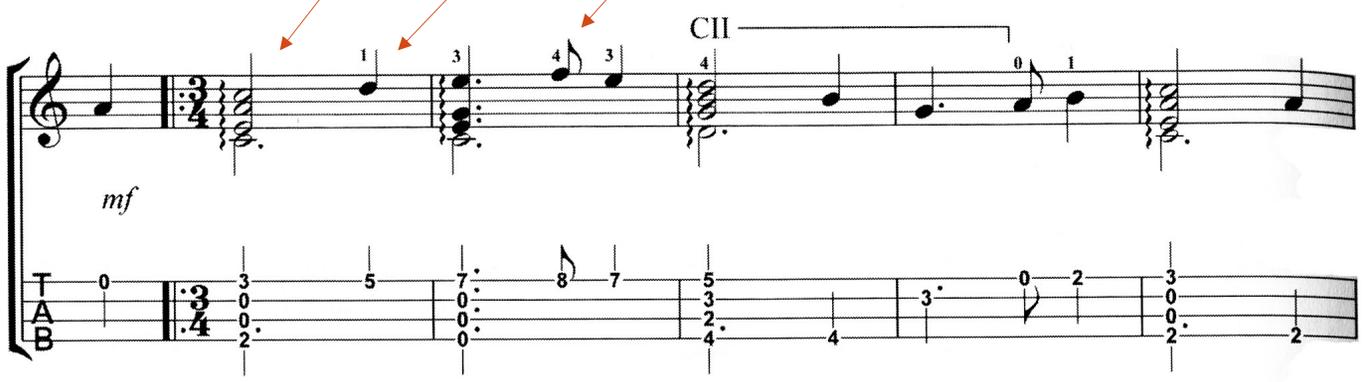


# VERY, VERY BASIC TIMING

Whole Note		4 beats
Half Notes	 	2 beats
Quarter Notes	   	1 beat
Eighth Notes	       	1/2 beat
Sixteenth Notes	                                    	1/4 beat

**Greensleaves**

*Andante*

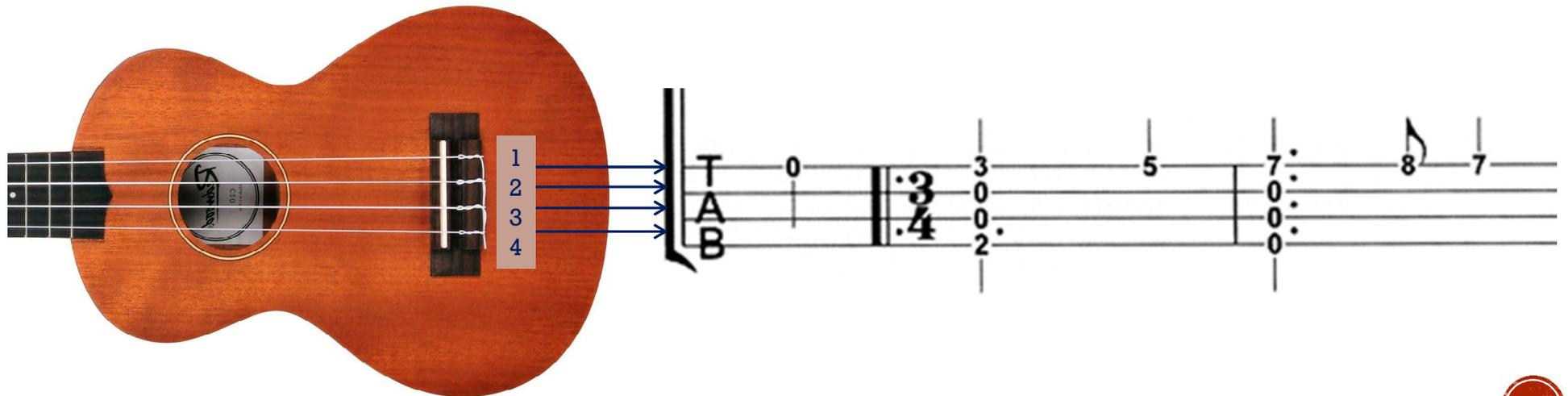


*mf*

TAB: 0 3 5 7 8 7 5 3 0 2 3 0 2

# READING TAB

- Each row on a line of TAB represents one of the physical strings on the ukulele.



# FRETS FRETTED

- The numbers on the rows indicate *which frets should be pressed*, 0 indicating an open string (these numbers are not the finger number)
- The location of the numbers indicates when the string should be struck

Strike the 1<sup>st</sup> string "open"

Strum all strings  
String 1 – fret 3  
String 2 – open  
String 3 – open  
String 4 – fret 2

5<sup>th</sup> Fret  
Strike the 1<sup>st</sup> string

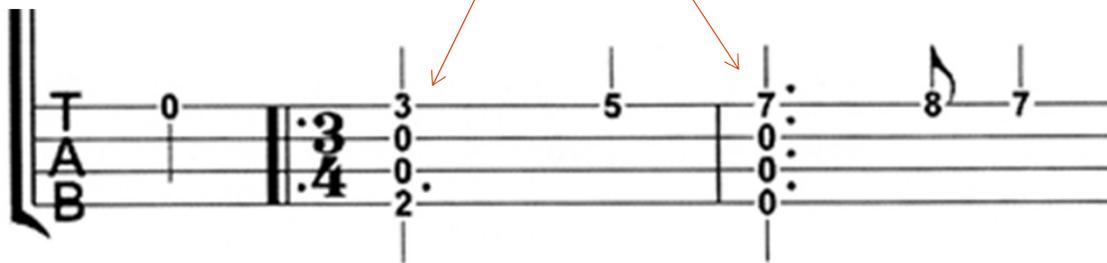
T  
A  
B

0 3 5 7 8 7  
0 0 0 0  
0 0 0 0  
2 0 0 0



# CHORD SHAPES?

- Not necessarily chord shapes that you'll know.
- Musically, they are likely chords, but complex ones.
- You'll have to figure out the fingering on your own.

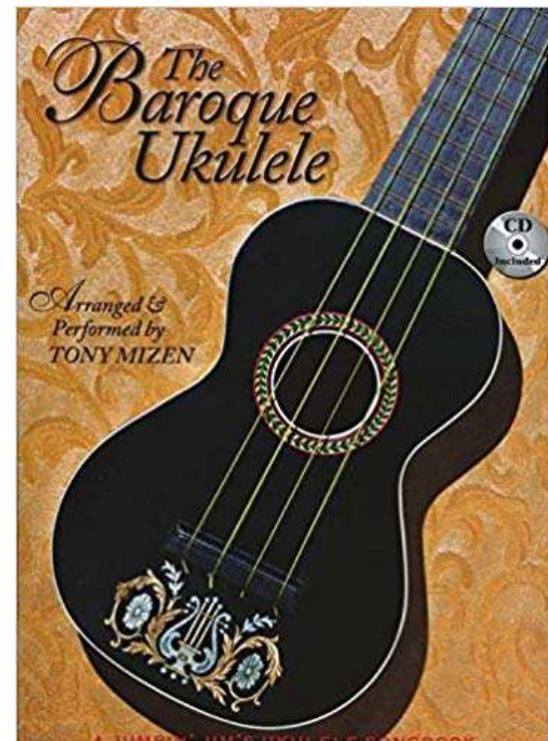
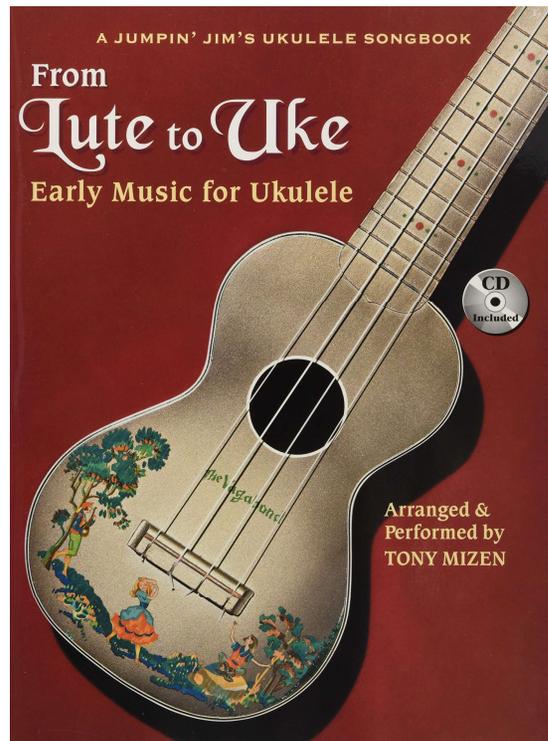
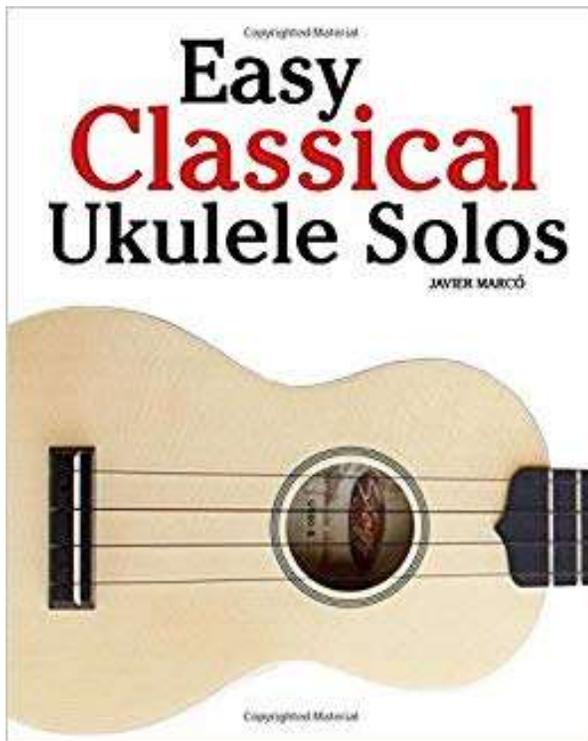




# GREENSLEVES

The image displays a musical score for the piece "Greensleeves". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff below it. The first system begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The music is marked with a dynamic of *mf*. The first system contains four measures. The second system begins with a measure number "7" above the staff and contains four measures. The tablature staff uses letters T, A, and B to denote strings and numbers 0-4 for fret positions. A "CII" marking is present above the first system's staff, indicating a capo on the second fret. Ellipses (...) are placed at the end of the second system, indicating that the score continues.

# GOOD TAB BOOKS





# QUESTIONS?

