



Free Guitar Ensemble Music

arranged by Derek Hasted

The Mermaid - *Sea Shanty*

Arrangement © Derek Hasted - downloaded from www.derek-hasted.co.uk/free

Sea Shanties - working songs - invariably have a well-defined melody and rhythm. And that makes them ideal for a novice Ensemble group. My Ensemble Workshop has three Hornpipes and a number of Shanties in our 130-piece Play List.

This is "The Mermaid" - a nonsense song about a ship going down. Like much traditional music, there are as many variations to the melody & words as there are people who know the song!

Try to clip the quavers (eighth notes) a little short, and leave the longer notes fully sustained. This will give a lighter and better articulated sound.

If you have the skill, take the top part up an octave - the piece will take on a whole new light.

If you have only 3 players, keep the tune & bass, and dispense with one of the two inner parts.

If you have more than 4 players, add extra people to the top part, because this is one of my few arrangements where the tune is not the highest line, and can be lost behind the accompaniment. (There is no room with 4 Guitars to have each part in the first position and keep the "accompaniment" parts below the tune).

Find me on the web...

www.derek-hasted.co.uk www.classical-guitar-lessons.co.uk

www.hago.org.uk www.guitar-workshop.org.uk

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1

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves: a vocal line and three guitar accompaniment staves. The music begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign on the F line. The first staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The third and fourth staves continue the accompaniment with rhythmic patterns.

5

Musical notation for measures 5-8. This system continues the piece with similar notation to the first system. The vocal line and guitar accompaniment maintain the established rhythmic and melodic patterns. The key signature remains one sharp (F#).

9

Musical notation for measures 9-12. This system concludes the page. The notation follows the same structure as the previous systems. In the final measure (measure 12), there are circled symbols in the second and fourth staves, likely indicating specific fingering or performance techniques for the guitar.

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13

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score is written for four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody, starting with a half rest followed by a dotted half note G4. The second and third staves contain accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. The fourth staff contains a bass line with quarter notes. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first staff.

17

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score is written for four staves in G major. The first staff contains the melody, starting with a quarter note G4. The second and third staves contain accompaniment. The fourth staff contains a bass line. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.