

Skellig

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- String Damping: see note at end of score.
- The right-hand fingering is not critical. I have suggested a basic arpeggio-style fingering where "i" plays the 3rd string, "m" plays the 2nd string, "a" plays the 1st string and the thumb plays the wound bass strings.
- Always keep the accompaniment notes (notes with stems pointing downwards) quiet.
- I have notated the accompaniment in a guitar shorthand style of notation. Do not play the rhythms literally as written. Instead, hold the bass notes and allow the notes to ring together as chords.

↑ = downstrum (towards the floor) with thumb (these are optional).

⋈ Or, the chords can be "rolled" with thumb and fingers (also optional).

Hear the tempo *before* strumming the first chord.

⑥ = D

Shift on 4th beat

Reverse fingering of 1 and 2 makes 1 a pivot finger.

Count *m i m*

Guide finger

Keep 1st finger down for next chord

Upstrum (towards the ceiling) with "i"

Lift 2, 3, 4 to avoid squeaks

HOLD

Prepare 4th finger above 6th string

	E	B	G	D	A	D
5	5					
5	5					
2	2	2	2	2	0	2-0
2	2	2	2	0	5	
0	0	0	0	5	3	5

Count *m i m*

Don't lift 1 before plucking next chord

Optional: Damp open B

Prepare 4th finger above 6th string

Quick pulloff

Keep 2nd finger down

Tuck in your left elbow to help stretch to low G

Hold 1, 2, and 3, but lift 4 over to 6th string

Allow notes to ring together

	E	B	G	D	A	D
1	0					
0	2-0					
0	3	2	0	2	2	2-0
3	3	5	0	0	0	2
5						

13

Prepare 4th finger above 6th string

Shift on 4th beat

Guide finger

Prepare 1st finger above 6th string

For this fingering, lift 1 but hold 2 and 3 and plant 1 and 4 together
Or: 4 2 1

Or: 4 1 1
For this fingering, lift 1 and 2 but hold 3 and plant 1 and 4 together

T 2 2 2-0 2 5 5 7 8 10 12 5 5 7 5 3 7

A 2 0 2 5 5 0 5 10 10 6 0 0 0

B 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 9 5 0 0 0

Plant 3 on 4th-string A at 7th fret

Optional: Damp open D with thumb

Intentional glissando to help connect melody

Prepare 1st finger above 1st string

Intentional glissando to help connect melody

HOLD

Lift 3rd finger to prevent squeak

HOLD

Lift 3rd finger to prevent squeak

HOLD

5 5 5 7 5 3 10 1-0 3 0 0 0 2 2 1

5 5 0 0 0 0 3 2 0 0 0 2 2

0 0 7 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 2 2

5 3 5 0 0

Musical score for "The Rose Tree" on guitar. The score is written for a treble and bass staff with tablature. The treble staff includes fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4) and dynamics (p, mf, f). The bass staff includes fingerings (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and dynamics (p, mf, f). The score is divided into measures by bar lines.

Annotations and performance instructions:

- Intentional glissando to help connect melody** (purple text, arrows pointing to purple wavy lines).
- Prepare 1st finger above 1st string** (red text, arrow pointing to the first string).
- Lift 3rd finger to prevent squeak** (blue text, arrows pointing to the 3rd finger).
- HOLD** (red text, arrows pointing to the 3rd finger).
- Intentional glissando to help connect melody** (purple text, arrows pointing to purple wavy lines).
- Lift 3rd finger to prevent squeak** (blue text, arrows pointing to the 3rd finger).
- HOLD** (red text, arrows pointing to the 3rd finger).
- HOLD** (red text, arrows pointing to the 3rd finger).
- HOLD** (red text, arrows pointing to the 3rd finger).
- HOLD** (red text, arrows pointing to the 3rd finger).

27

Do not lift C before plucking next chord

If you use 4 on low G, lift 4 over to 6th string

Double thumb stroke or use *p* and *i*

Lift 2 and 3

Stretch 4th finger to low G. Tuck in your left elbow to help stretch.

HOLD

HOLD

HOLD

HOLD

HOLD 2 and 3

31

Guide finger

Allow notes to ring together as campanella effect.

HOLD

HOLD

HOLD

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

35

Echo quieter and darker

Optional: Damp open E

Guide finger

Optional: Deep open E

Guide finger

Optional: Damp open B

HOLD

HOLD

HOLD

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

40

Optional: Damp open E

Guide finger

Optional: Deep open E

Guide finger

Optional: Damp open B

Keep Am chord down going into next line →

HOLD

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

HOLD

HOLD

44

Count

Optional: Damp open E

Guide finger

Keep Am chord down going into next line →

HOLD

HOLD

48

Optional: Damp open E

Guide finger

Optional: Damp open B

Lightly slide 2nd finger up to 9th fret on 4th beat

Echo quieter and darker

HOLD

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

HOLD

HOLD

OR:
easier
version

The musical notation shows a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: B-flat4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The bass staff shows the following notes: B-flat3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (half). The lyrics 'a m i i m' are written above the treble staff, and '4 1' are written below the bass staff. The word 'OR:' is written to the left of the staff, and 'easier version' is written below it.

Repeat back to measure #53

64

Optional: Damp open E

Optional: Damp open B

Guide finger

Keep Am chord down going into next line

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

Echo quieter and darker

64 65 66 67

68

Optional: Bar 2 strings

Optional: Damp open E

Optional: Damp open B

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

Keep 2 down into next line

68 69 70 71

72

Hold 2 and 3

Optional: Bar 2 strings

Guide finger

Allow notes to ring together as campanella effect.

Optional: Damp open B

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

Lift 3 to avoid squeak

72 73 74 75

[illegible]

85

Intentional glissando to help connect melody

Prepare 1st finger above 1st string

Intentional glissando to help connect melody

V^③

HOLD

Lift 3rd finger to prevent squeak

HOLD

Lift 3rd finger to prevent squeak

HOLD

Prepare 1st finger above 1st string

Intentional glissando to help connect melody

Right-hand harmonic (artificial harmonic) 1st string, 12th fret plucked with *a*.

Touch 1st string at 12th fret with *i*. Pluck harmonic with *a*. Pluck 2nd-string C with *m* or *p*.

rall.

OR:

The main musical score is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a tempo marking of 90. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes marked with *a* (attack) or *m* (pluck). The accompaniment is written on a bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp. It features a series of chords and single notes, with some notes marked with *p* (piano) or *m* (pluck). The score includes several annotations: a red arrow pointing to the first finger preparation, a purple arrow pointing to a glissando, and three red arrows labeled 'HOLD' pointing to the 3rd finger of the right hand. Blue arrows point to the 3rd finger of the left hand, with the text 'Lift 3rd finger to prevent squeak'. A bracket labeled 'rall.' spans the first two measures of the accompaniment. The score ends with a double bar line and a final chord. To the right, an alternative phrasing is shown, labeled 'OR:'. It features a different melody and accompaniment, with the same key signature and tempo. The alternative melody is written on a treble clef staff and the accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The alternative melody includes notes marked with *m* and *a*. The alternative accompaniment includes notes marked with *p* and *m*. The alternative score also ends with a double bar line and a final chord.

NOTE ON STRING DAMPING:

In my video/recording, I use minimal string damping. My preference was to capture the sound of the Celtic harp, allowing the notes to ring together whether dissonant or consonant.

However, the piece also sounds good when the melody is played as a pure line (one note ringing at a time) using left and right-hand string damping. (See my Technique Tip on string damping.)

You may also prefer to damp unwanted dissonances in the accompaniment. It is your choice how you want the piece to sound.