

Flatpicking Guitar Magazine

Free Monthly Lesson - September 2017

“Shalom Aleichem”

Arranged by Mickey Abraham

Hello and welcome to Flatpicking Guitar Magazine’s free lesson portion of our monthly newsletter. This month’s tune is a traditional Hebrew melody called “Shalom Aleichem.” I grew up hearing this song in temple and then later heard it on a wonderful record called “Songs of our Fathers” by the great David Grisman and Andy Statman.

For this lesson I’ve included two versions of the tune. The second version puts the melody up one octave and incorporates some challenging double stops. The first version stays in the open position and is easier to master.

“Shalom Aleichem” is great for breaking up your fiddle tunes and bluegrass songs. It’s also a stunning slow melody that is not a waltz! To me, the most interesting part of the tune is how it switches from minor to major for the second half. Make sure to click on the included lesson mp3 to hear the effect this has on the listener.

When playing back-up for “Shalom Aleichem” I tend to not use a bluegrass strumming pattern. In order to match the tone of the melody I tend to play sparse down strums and arpeggiated chords. Try leaving lots of space where the melody has space and let the chords breathe.

I know you’ll enjoy working on “Shalom Aleichem” and playing for your family and friends. As always should you have any questions or comments on the e-lesson just drop me a line at michabraham@comcast.net

Shalom Aleichem

Arranged by Mickey Abraham

1 **Am** **E7** **Dm** **E7**

TAB

2 1 0 2 2 | 1 2 4 2 1 3 2 | 1 1 2 1 2 1 | 0 0

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The top staff is a treble clef in 4/4 time. Measure 1 has a whole note G4. Measure 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5. Measure 3 has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, and quarter note A4. Measure 4 has a half note G4. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for these measures.

5 **Am** **E7** **Dm** **E7** **Dm** **E7**

TAB

2 1 0 2 2 | 1 2 4 2 1 3 2 | 0 2 1 3 2 | 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. Measure 5 is identical to measure 1. Measure 6 is identical to measure 2. Measure 7 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5. Measure 8 has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, and quarter note A4. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for these measures.

9 **C** **G** **Am** **F** **E7**

TAB

1 3 0 0 0 | 3 1 0 1 3 0 3 | 1 0 2 0 1 0 3 1 | 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. Measure 9 has a whole note C4. Measure 10 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5. Measure 11 has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, and quarter note A4. Measure 12 has a half note G4. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for these measures.

13 **Dm** **Am** **E7** **Am**

TAB

0 3 3 3 | 3 1 0 3 1 0 2 2 | 1 0 2 0 2 1 | 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 16. Measure 13 has a whole note G4. Measure 14 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5. Measure 15 has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, and quarter note A4. Measure 16 has a half note G4. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for these measures.

17 **E7** **Dm** **E7**

TAB

5 8 7 5 5 | 4 5 7 5 4 6 5 | 4 4 5 4 5 8 7 | 12

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 through 20. Measure 17 has a whole note G4. Measure 18 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5. Measure 19 has a quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, and quarter note A4. Measure 20 has a half note G4. The bottom staff shows guitar tablature for these measures.

Shalom Aleichem (con't)

21 **Am** **Em** **Dm** **E7** **Dm** **E7**

5 8 7 5 5 4 5 7 5 4 6 5 3 5 4 1 0

25 **C** **G** **Am** **F** **E7**

8 10 12 12 12 10 8 7 8 10 12 10 8 7 5 7 8 12 10 8 7
9 10 12 12 12 10 9 7 9 10 12 10 9 7 5 7 9 12 10 9 7

29 **Dm** **Am** **E7** **Am**

7 10 10 10 10 13 12 10 8 7 5 8 7 5 7 5 4 5
7 10 10 10 10 14 12 10 9 7 5 9 7 5 7 5 4 5