

"Karelian" Folk Song

In the introduction to this book, it was stated that all of the music is original. I was lying! This is a traditional folk song from Karelia. Karelia used to be a part of Finland but is now a part of Russia. This land area is directly east of the Finnish-Russian border. There is a very sad history to what happened to the majority of the population in this this area. One can find lots of information about this on the internet.

Lots of Finnish and Russian music, and of course Karelian music is set in a minor key so this beautiful song is seems appropriate at this point. The song is in public domain.

Rather slowly and
with a gentle touch

allow the 3rd finger
to mute the "A" string

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The chords and fingerings are as follows:

- Staff 1:** Am (1, 3, 2, 0), G (0, 0, 0, 3), F (2, 4, 3, 1), C (2, 3).
- Staff 2:** Em (0, 3, 2, 0), F (2, 4, 3, 1), C (2, 3), G7 (4, 2, 3), C (0, 2, 3), E7 (1, 1, 3).
- Staff 3:** Am (0, 3, 2, 0), G (0, 0, 0, 3) with "mute 'A' string" instruction, B7 (3, 1, 2) with "mute 'A' string" instruction, E (3, 2, 0), E7+ (1, 1, 0).
- Staff 4:** Am (0, 3, 2, 0), Am(maj7) (1, 0, 2, 0), Am7 (1, 0, 2, 0), D9 (0, 1, 3, 0, 2) with "mute 'A' string" instruction, E7 (0, 1, 0, 2), Am (3, 2, 0).

This arrangement will be better suited for an acoustic guitar although any guitar should do. The problem that sometimes occurs with electric guitars is that the bass strings tend to overpower the treble strings.

Lots of the chords are in low range and a heavy handed approach can turn these low chords into pure mud.

On a harmonized solo of this kind, it is a good idea to first isolate the melody by playing only the highest notes of the chords of course along with the other single melody notes. This way, your ear will be accustomed to what the tune is supposed to sound like. Notice that there are a number of chords where the 5th string must be blocked. This technique takes careful fingering and delicate picking.