



“Silent Night” Introduction

It was a cold night on Christmas Eve in 1818 in a small Austrian village, that part-time school teacher/part-time church organist, Franz Gruber put a poem by his friend, Father Joseph Mohr, to music for the service.

The church organ had been damaged after recent floods, so Franz Gruber was asked to make a guitar accompaniment for the song. On that cold night, in a small Austrian church in a tiny village was first sung what was to become one of the most widely recognized melodies in the world, “Silent Night”.

This simple Christmas carol has been translated into 140 languages and has become the fourth best-selling single of all time.

“Silent Night” Introduction

The Key “Silent Night” is customarily written in Bb in most hymnals and songbooks but it is commonly played on guitar in G - capoing at the 3rd fret if needed.

Song Form It is 24 measures long with three verses typically sung – although in some hymnals there is a fourth verse included.

Time Signature It is in 3/4 time with 3 beats per measure.

Tempo Quarter Note = 68-80bpm. A slow 3/4.

“Silent Night” Basic Solo Arrangement

Here is a basic solo fingerstyle arrangement in the key of G. Once you learn the arrangement, try to play it with a capo on the 3rd fret. Let all notes and strings ring as much as possible.

VERSE

G **G2** **G** **G2**

D5 **D** **G** **G2/B**

C2 **Am7** **G2** **Em9**





The score is divided into three systems, each with a melody line and a guitar tab line. Chord diagrams are provided for each measure.

System 1 (Measures 13-16):

- Measure 13: Chord C2. Melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter). Tab: 0 3 0.
- Measure 14: Chord Am7. Melody: C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter). Tab: 3 0 1 2 0.
- Measure 15: Chord G2. Melody: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter). Tab: 3 0 2 3.
- Measure 16: Chord Em9. Melody: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter). Tab: 0 4 0 5.

System 2 (Measures 17-20):

- Measure 17: Chord D5 (2fr.). Melody: D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F#5 (quarter). Tab: 5 3 2 5.
- Measure 18: Chord Am (5fr.). Melody: A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter). Tab: 5 5 5 7.
- Measure 19: Chord Em. Melody: E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). Tab: 3 0 0 3.
- Measure 20: Chord A2 (5fr.). Melody: A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter). Tab: 7 5 6 0.

System 3 (Measures 21-24):

- Measure 21: Chord G. Melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter). Tab: 3 3 0.
- Measure 22: Chord D/F#. Melody: D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter). Tab: 3 0 2 1 2.
- Measure 23: Chord G. Melody: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter). Tab: 0 0 2 0 3.
- Measure 24: Chord G2. Melody: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter). Tab: 0 0 2 0.

Repeat back to beginning.

Want the full “Silent Night” lesson? Go to <https://bit.ly/SongLesson-SilentNight>

- Step by Step Video Showing Melody & Chords and Detailed PDF
- Advanced Chord Substitutions
- Detailed PDF with Music Notation and TAB
- PLUS, Multiple Solo Guitar Arrangements (Basic, Intermediate & Advanced)