

# Beatles times arranged for the Mountain Pulcimer

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### The Beat leTudes

### Introduction

When I was eight years old, I was given an 8-track player for Christmas and one 8-track. It was "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." Clearly, my well-meaning aunt had gone to a music store and said "give me something that would be a good introduction to music for my nephew." Though my parents schemed it away almost immediately (they were smart enough to know that forbidding me to have it would only make me want it more) the damage was done.

You can't be a musician and not know the Beatles, it's like being a preacher but not reading the Bible. Sure, you might reach some of the same conclusions, but it's going to take *a lot* longer to get there.

Late in 2010, I realized that without trying—I had managed to learn a handful of Beatles tunes on the dulcimer. A few were really hard, but many were not. And even the tough ones I had taught to advanced players without too much trouble. Also, the tunes I knew were not the ones that are found in Neal Hellman's excellent Mel Bay book on the Beatles. Nor were they arrangements of Beatle tunes that friends of mine (like Bing Futch) had done. So, several lawyers and a lot of checks later, here it is.

To be sure, these are MY arrangements. Many of these tunes vary slightly from the original recordings by the fab four, and sometimes they are drastically different. One song—the DAD version of *Gently Weeps*—is actually a cover of a cover (a version by ukulele wizard Jake Shimabukuro).

My hope with this book is to turn you on to a few great tunes, and to again demonstrate how surprisingly effective the mountain dulcimer is at taking catchy, but sophisticated, songs and turning them into fun and rewarding music. I've said this before, but it bears repeating. The mountain dulcimer isn't a simple instrument, it's just an efficient one.

Have fun, and I'll see you out there.

# **Playing Tips**

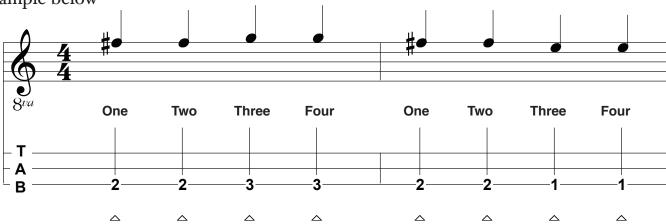
If you've ever taken a class with me, I have probably said early (and several times after that) "Whatever works, works." That means that the way *you* coax music out of a dulcimer, is the right way to make music with a dulcimer (or a glockenspiel, or a tuba, or a hubcap).

That said, there are some things I've learned that make learning and playing easier. I encourage you to start with what I've learned and then adopt or adapt these techniques as you see fit.

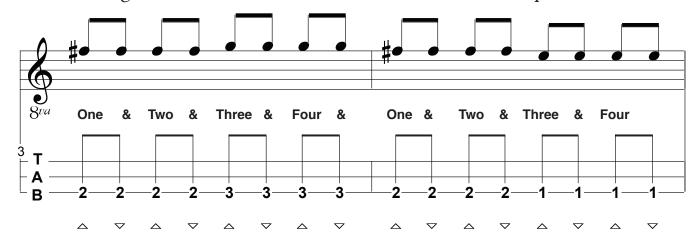
# Strumming

Almost all of the songs in this book are in 4/4 time (also known as common time). 4/4 means that there are four beats to the measure and the quarter note gets the beat. Most all the songs you hear on the radio, TV or at music festivals are played in this time signature.

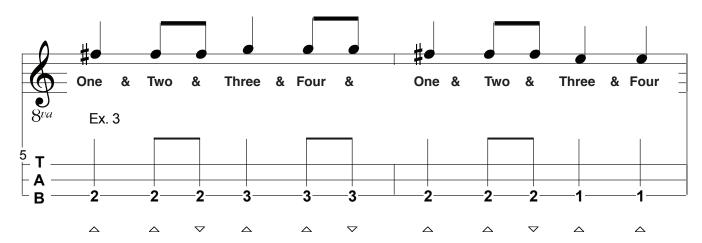
The best way to keep the beat (and indeed the most efficient way to play) is to strum out on the beat. So let's start there. Count "one, two, three, four" and strum with that (see example below



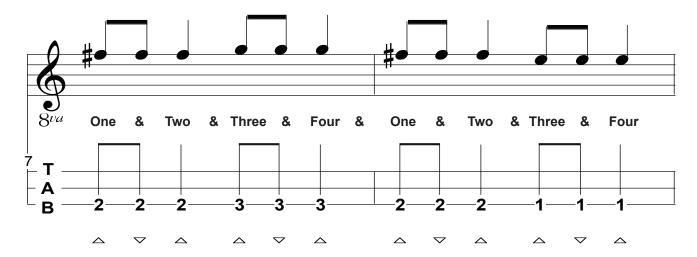
Once you're comfortable with that, try strumming in and out. Count "1 and 2 and 3 and 4" while strumming out on the numbers and in on the "ands" (see example below).



Now we're gonna break it up by playing some "and" strokes and not playing others. Play the example below first by counting like this "one, two and three, four and one" and then strumming along with it (see example below).



Some of you will recognize this as the familiar "bum-ditty" strum pattern. Now let's flip that around backwards, and play the example below, count like this "one and two, three and four" and strum accordingly (see example below).



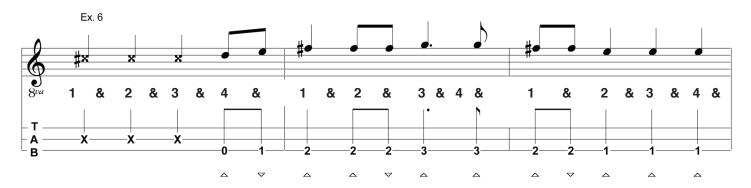
Okay, these two exercises form the basis of understanding the music and getting the rhythms correct. I suggest that you try and play these two examples everyday until you are comfortable with them (comfortable here means "sick of"). Try alternating them in succession: Play four times through Example 3 and —without stopping— play four times through Example 4. It will be a little tricky at first. Once you have this together, then try playing each one twice, then each one just once. The first time you attempt it you will probably mess up, but each time will it will get a little easier to do. This is because you are becoming a better player! Alternating these two exercises is a good way to practice, or to warm up for playing the songs in this book.

### Sixteenth Notes

So to recap, the "out" strums are when you are playing the quarter notes, and the "in" strums are when you are playing eighth notes. Sixteenth notes (the ones with two little flags on them) occur between them and we count them like this "one-ee-and-a-two-ee-and-a-three-ee-and-a-four-ee" the "ee" and the "a" are, of course, the sixteenth notes. Often, they only appear as embellishments (see example 5 below).



Finally I'd like to leave you with one last example. This exercise lays out the trickiest rhythm found in old time tunes. It's a fairly common rhythm, so it's worth taking the time to learn. This tune has a pick up note, it also has no "four" beat, but there's an "and" strum in the forth beat. So you would have to "count-in" and then count like this "One, two, three, four and one, two and three, and one and two and three". But you would not strum until you hit that first "four and" (see Example 6 below). Playing it as you see it below is the easiest way to learn it. Talking about it only makes it more complicated.



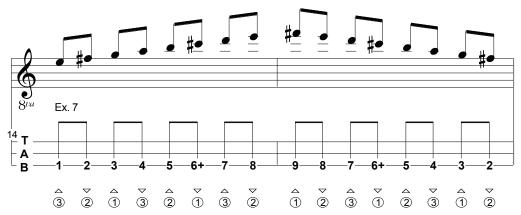
Again, the best way to learn all of these tunes is to listen to the CD and keep playing. If you play every day, even for five or ten minutes, you will get better. I guarantee it.

# Fingering

More than anything else, the most time I spend on a piece is getting the fingering together. Here are two techniques that I use a lot.

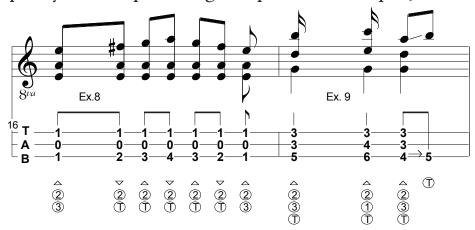
### Three finger

When playing through a melody or a scale, I will assign one finger to each fret. Although this may seem counter-intuitive in a long run up the neck, I find that it causes me to move my hand less as I can stay in one place a little longer. In the example below I play the first fret with my ring finger, the second fret with my middle, and the third with my index finger. Then I slide up the neck and repeat the same sequence staring at the forth fret (see first bar of the example below). I reverse this technique when coming down (see second bar of the example below) Remember to strum out *and* in.



### The Thumb

Often if I'm playing chords and melodies at the same time, I will make serious use of my thumb to grab the melody while I hold the chord (example 8). I will also use it when playing "L" chords, often I'll start and "L" chord with my thumb on the next note down in pitch and then quickly slide it up to its rightful place (see example 9 below). This makes a



nice simple embellishment that sounds pretty (and covers your butt if you hit that note by accident) Remember that these are only starting points. From here the melody the chords, and the tempo of the song will help me decide what is most comfortable for me to play. Start here, but don't be afraid to experiment. And of course, if you have any questions. Just contact me and ask!

# 8 Days a Week

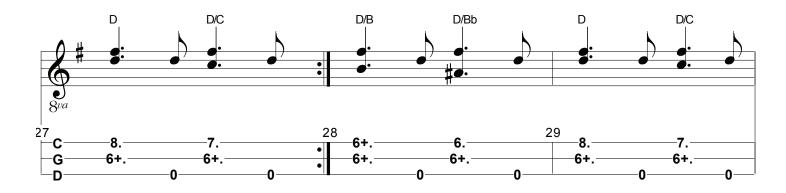


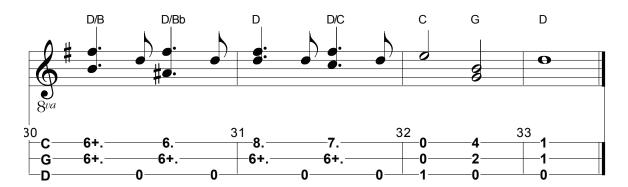


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### 8 Days a Week

Ooh I need your love babe
Guess you know it's true
Hope you need my love babe
Just like I need you
Hold me, love me, hold me, love me
Ain't got nothing but love babe
Eight days a week

Love you every day girl
Always on my mind
One thing I can say girl
Love you all the time
Hold me, love me, hold me, love me
Ain't got nothing but love babe
Eight days a week

Eight days a week
I love you
Eight days a week
Is not enough to show I care

(repeat first verse)

Eight days a week
I love you
Eight days a week
Is not enough to show I care

(repeat second verse)

Eight days a week x3

### Dear Prudence

Dear Prudence, won't you come out to play? Dear Prudence, greet the brand new day The sun is up, the sky is blue It's beautiful and so are you Dear Prudence, won't you come out to play?

Dear Prudence, open up your eyes
Dear Prudence, see the sunny skies
The wind is low, the birds will sing
That you are part of everything
Dear Prudence, won't you open up your eyes?

Look around round round Look around

Dear Prudence, let me see you smile
Dear Prudence, like a little child
The clouds will be a daisy chain
So let me see you smile again
Dear Prudence, won't you let me see you smile?

Dear Prudence, won't you come out to play? Dear Prudence, greet the brand new day The sun is up, the sky is blue It's beautiful and so are you Dear Prudence, won't you come out to play?

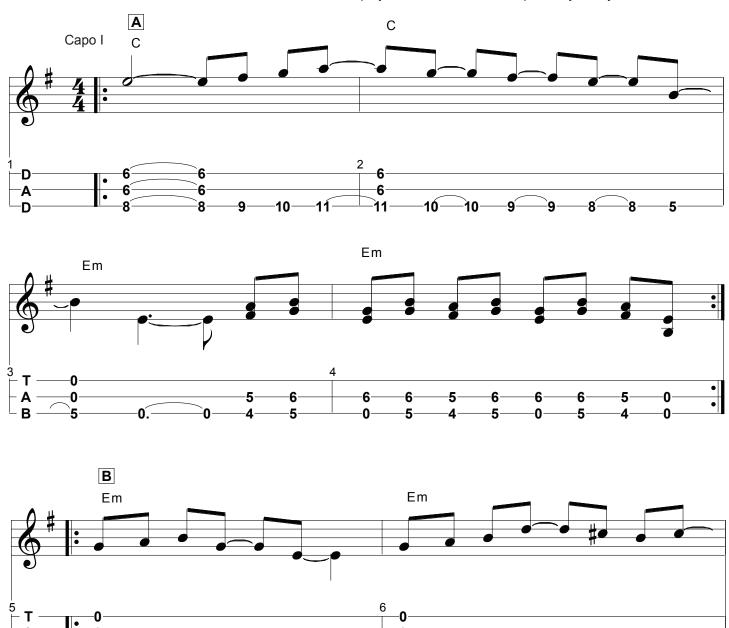
## **Eleanor Rigby**

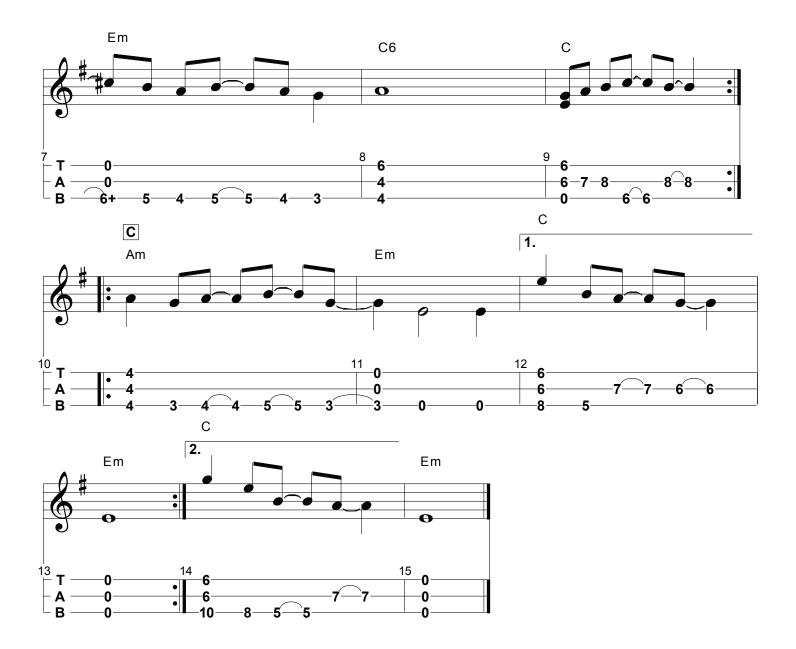
### Form:ABCBCABC

Written by Lennon/McCartney ©1965 Northern Songs Arranged by Butch Ross

On my Mac this file is listed as "eleanor\_simple," but this 15 bar, two-chord song is anything but. John just refused to sing on the downbeat and as a result syncopation occurs everywhere. Meaning this "simple" version is still intermediate and above. The good news is that because you know the melody so well, the rhythms are somewhat inherent.

Some things to look out for: the 5 note in measure 2 is played with the pinky, fret that note and hold it, while releasing you other fingers to get the open strum in measure 3. Same with the 3 notes in measure 10, and the 5 notes in measures 12 and 14. In those same two measures play the 8 and 10 notes respectively with your thumb.





Heanor Rigby

I look at all the lonely people I look at all the lonely people

Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in the church where a wedding has been / Lives in a dream Waits at the window, wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the door / Who is it for?

All the lonely people Where do they all come from? All the lonely people Where do they all belong?

Father McKenzie writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear / No one comes near.

Look at him working, darning his socks in the night

when there's nobody there / What does he care?

All the lonely people Where do they all come from? All the lonely people Where do they all belong?

I look at all the lonely people I look at all the lonely people

Eleanor Rigby died in the church and was buried along with her name / Nobody came
Father McKenzie wiping the dirt from his hands as he walks from the grave / No one was saved

All the lonely people Where do they all come from? All the lonely people Where do they all belong?

### Blackbird

Form: A-B(w/tag)-A-B-C-A-B-C-D-A-B(w/tagx3)

Written by Lennon/McCartne ©1965 NORTHERN SONG Arranged by Butch Ross

Considering how short it is (2 minutes and 22 bars) there's a lot of stuff going on here. The B part is repeated, then not repeated then repeated three times. The recorded version follows the original fairly closely, although there's one little lick that I removed. Although I sometimes play it with a pick, it's probably best to finger pick and get a loping pattern alternating the thumb against the first and second fingers. But watch out. Though the voicings are mostly on the bass and middle strings, they aren't always. This can create some tricky right hand fingerings if you're not ready for 'em.

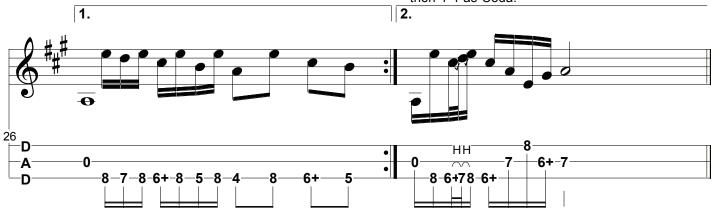




For the Intro and Outro, I'll use my middle finger to pluck the bass string while I pick the melody. I've tabbed two versions of the interlude: one is just the chords, the other is the harpsichord solo...the insane harpsichord solo. This is in the key of A, but no capo.







### **Blackbird**

Blackbird singing in the dead of night Take these broken wings and learn to fly All your life

You were only waiting for this moment to arise

Black bird singing in the dead of night Take these sunken eyes and learn to see All your life

You were only waiting for this moment to be free

Blackbird fly, Blackbird fly Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird fly, Blackbird fly Into the light of the dark black night.

Blackbird singing in the dead of night Take these broken wings and learn to fly All your life

You were only waiting for this moment to arise, You were only waiting for this moment to arise, You were only waiting for this moment to arise

# hmy Life

There are places I remember
All my life though some have changed
Some forever not for better
Some have gone and some remain
All these places have their moments
With lovers and friends I still can recall
Some are dead and some are living
In my life I've loved them all

But of all these friends and lovers

There is no one compares with you And these memories lose their meaning When I think of love as something new Though I know I'll never lose affection For people and things that went before I know I'll often stop and think about them In my life I love you more

Though I know I'll never lose affection For people and things that went before I know I'll often stop and think about them In my life I love you more

In my life I love you more

### Norwegian Wood

I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me... She showed me her room, isn't it good, Norwegian wood?

She asked me to stay and she told me to sit anywhere, So I looked around and I noticed there wasn't a chair.

I sat on a rug, biding my time, drinking her wine. We talked until two and then she said, "It's time for bed"

She told me she worked in the morning and started to laugh.

I told her I didn't and crawled off to sleep in the bath

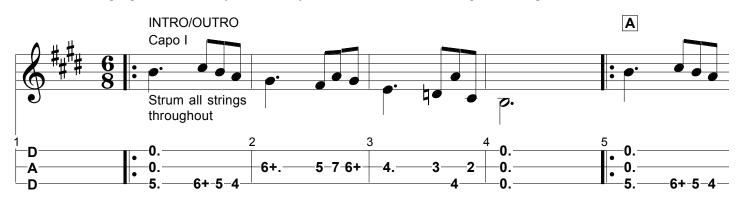
And when I awoke, I was alone, this bird had flown So I lit a fire, isn't it good, Norwegian wood.

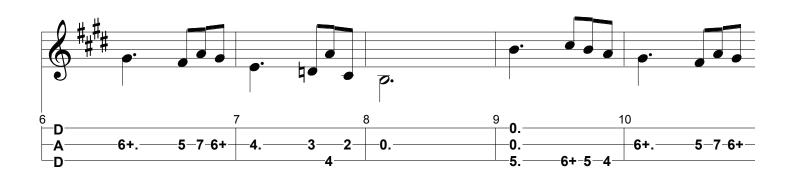
# Norwegian Wood

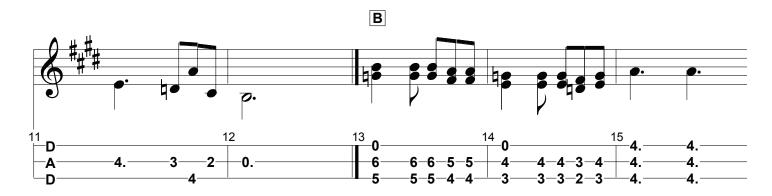
Form: Intro-A-B-A-B-A-Outro

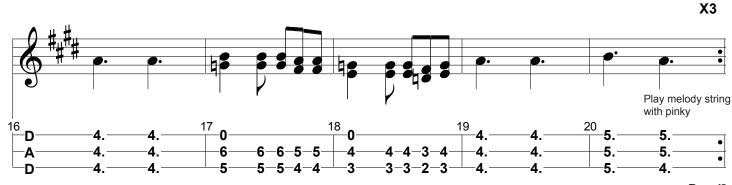
Written by Lennon/McCartney ©1965 NORTHERN SONGS Arranged by Butch Ross

Perhaps the simplest arrangement in this book, verse-chorus-verse-chorus-verse. I've highlighted the melody below, but you should strum all the strings with a vigorous 6/8 strum.









**Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds** 1.5 fret version Form : ABCABCACC Pretty easy tune to play, the only tricky part is making sure you don't play the melody string in the A section. **%** E Cdim E7 C#m Avoid melody string. A D 6+ E7 C#m Cdim Ε -8 -8 C#m Cdim Ε E7 6+ 6 -8 6+ В E7 C#m Cdim

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# **Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds**





# Gently Weeps DGD Version

At the 2011 OVG Sarah Morgan asked me about my version of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." She had been having trouble figuring out my arrangement of it, in part because she was trying to learn it in DGD tuning. Well, it turns out that tuning to DGD but playing in D is *perfect* for this tune. This is my take on it, Sarah's is much better.





# While My [insert instrument here] Gently Weeps



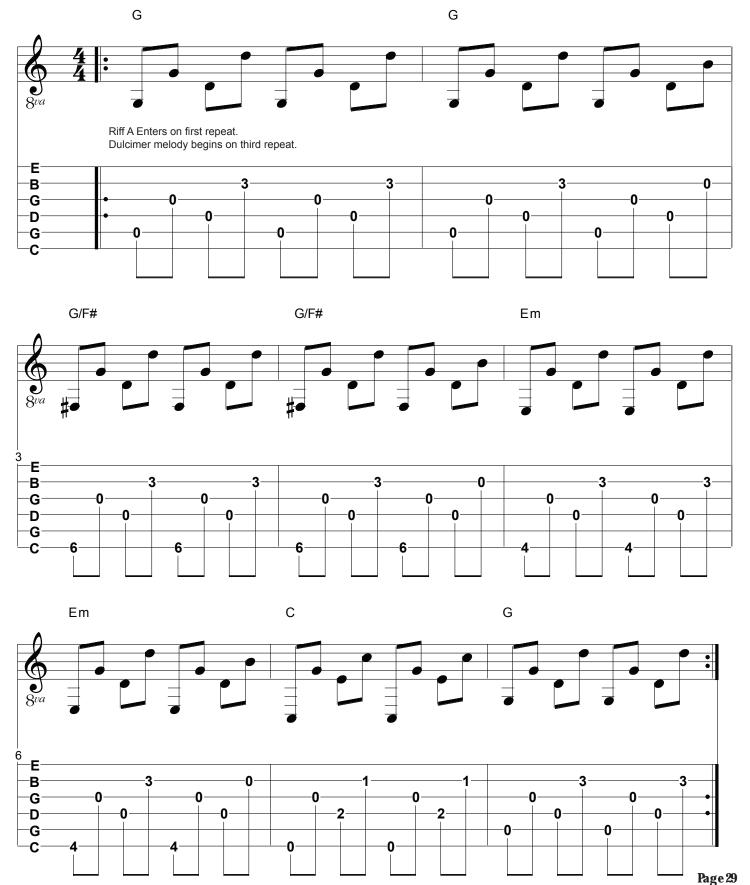




# A Little Help Here

**Guitar Loop** 

See Dulcimer Solos for notes.



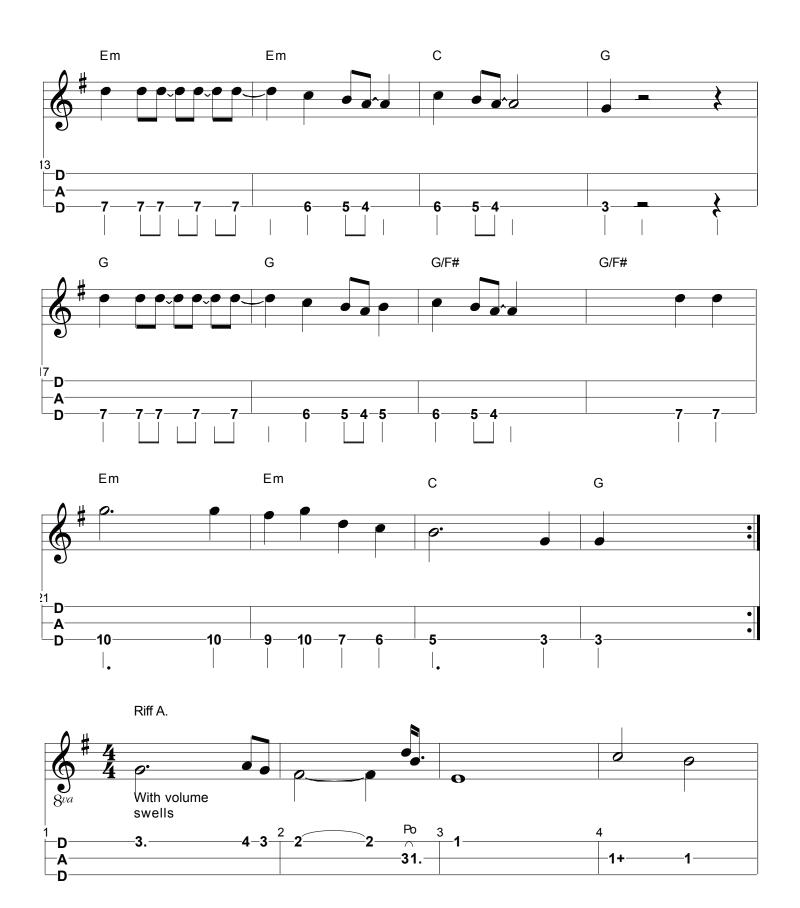
# A Little Help Here?

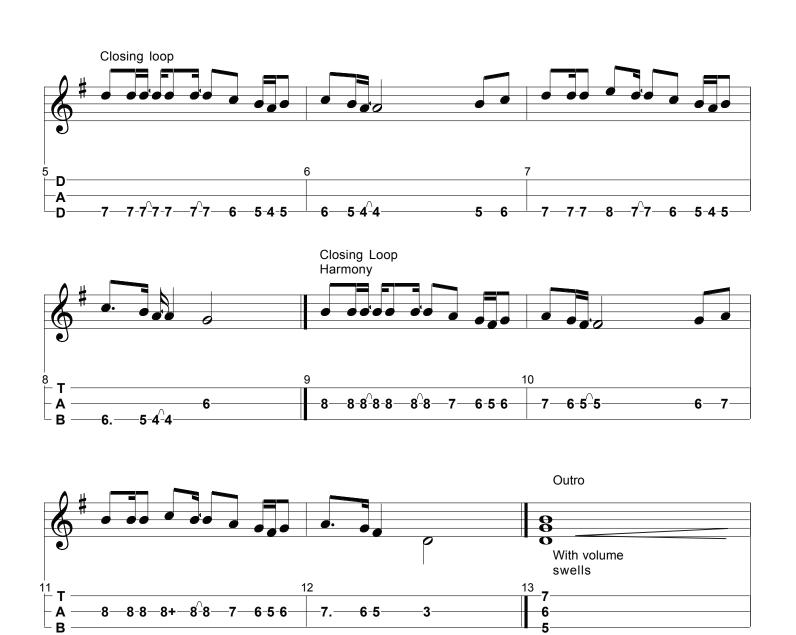
### **Dulcimer solos**

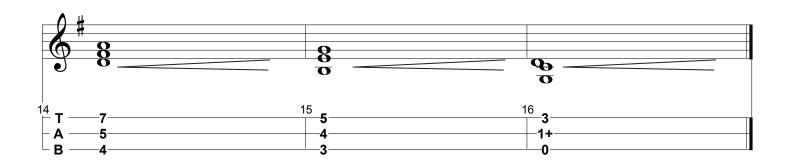
features interpolations of "Help" written by John Lennon/Paul McCartney ©1965 NORTHERN SONGS

Completely made up on the fly at a gig, this has developed into a loop show staple. This is all looped guitar and electric dulcimer. The solo is improvised, so I didn't tab it out. The looped melody and its harmony are at the end. The swells at the end are done with a volume pedal (and a bunch of other pedals).









While my guitar gently weeps
I look at you all see the love there that's sleeping While my guitar gently weeps I look at the floor and I see it need sweeping Still my guitar gently weeps

I don't know why nobody told you How to unfold you love I don't know how someone controlled you They bought and sold you

I look at the world and I notice it's turning While my guitar gently weeps With every mistake we must surely be learning Still my guitar gently weeps

I don't know how you were diverted You were perverted too I don't know how you were inverted No one alerted you

I look at you all see the love there that's sleeping While my guitar gently weeps I look at you all Still my guitar gently weeps

Oh, oh, oh Oh oh oh oh oh oh Oh oh, oh oh, oh oh Yeah yeah yeah yeah Yeah yeah

### **Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds**

Picture yourself in a boat on a river, With tangerine trees and marmalade skies. Somebody calls you, you answer quite slowly, A girl with kaleidoscope eyes.

Cellophane flowers of yellow and green, Towering over your head. Look for the girl with the sun in her eyes, And she's gone.

{CHORUS} Lucy in the sky with diamonds x3 Ah... Ah...

Follow her down to a bridge by a fountain, Where rocking horse people eat marshmallow pies. Everyone smiles as you drift past the flowers, That grow so incredibly high.

Newspaper taxis appear on the shore, Waiting to take you away. Climb in the back with your head in the clouds, And you're gone. {CHORUS}

Picture yourself on a train in a station, With plasticine porters with looking glass ties. Suddenly someone is there at the turnstile, The girl with kaleidoscope eyes.

A little HelpHere

When I was younger, so much younger than today, I never needed anybody's help in any way. But now these days are gone, I'm not so self assured, Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors.

Help me if you can, I'm feeling down And I do appreciate you being round. Help me, get my feet back on the ground, Won't you please, please help me?

And now my life has changed in oh so many ways, My independence seems to vanish in the haze. But every now and then I feel so insecure, I know that I just need you like I've never done before.

### Chorus

When I was younger, so much younger than today, I never needed anybody's help in any way. But now these days are gone, I'm not so self assured, Now I find I've change d my mind and opened up the doors.

### **Yellow Submarine**

In the town where I was born Lived a man who sailed to sea And he told us of his life In the land of submarines

So we sailed up to the sun Till we found the sea of green And we lived beneath the waves In our yellow submarine

We all live in a yellow submarine Yellow submarine, yellow submarine We all live in a yellow submarine Yellow submarine, yellow submarine

And our friends are all on board Many more of them live next door And the band begins to play

[Full speed ahead, Mr. Parker, full speed ahead! Full speed over here, sir! Action station! Action station! Aye, aye, sir, fire! Heaven! Heaven!]

As we live a life of ease (A life of ease) Everyone of us (Everyone of us) has all we need (Has all we need) Sky of blue (Sky of blue) and sea of green (Sea of green) In our yellow (In our yellow) submarine (Submarine, ha, ha)

chorus x2

Page 33 {CHORUS}

### Yellow Submarine

What can I say? a fun little ditty tot take us home.

The musical interlude exisits over a D chord,
so just strum all the strings

