

"The Little Drummer Boy"

"The Little Drummer Boy" (originally known as "Carol of the Drum") is a popular Christmas song written by the American classical music composer and teacher Katherine Kennicott Davis in 1941.

***Arranged for Solo Plectrum Guitar
by Brian Johns***

This arrangement is perhaps a bit more challenging but that's what makes it interesting to both play and listen to. Here, we're going to explore the full range of the guitar with percussive-like sounds in the bass coupled with an easy and hummable melody on top.

So, technically, we have melodic harmonization by diatonic thirds and sixths and a few partial barres along the way. The piece opens with some triplets – alluding to a snare drum - in the bass so I've included picking direction indications below the tablature staff. In bars 14 and 15, you'll have to employ an interior string muting strategy. You can do that by simply getting a little sloppy with your arch of the finger on the 3rd string. But if you don't do it perfectly, the 2nd string is a "B" so it fits the implied harmony, so no sweat. As per usual, all harmonic content has been colored red.

"THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY"

Katherine Kennicott Davis
(1941)

First system of musical notation for guitar. It consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in red and features triplet eighth notes. Below the staff is a guitar tablature (TAB) with fret numbers 0 and 2, and plectrum symbols (V) indicating the picking direction.

Second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and tablature from the first system. It features the same key signature and time signature, with triplet eighth notes in the melody and fret numbers 0 and 2 in the tablature.

Third system of musical notation. It includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth notes. The guitar tablature includes fret numbers 0, 2, 4, and 5. A '4/6 B IV' chord diagram is shown. The tablature includes plectrum symbols (V) and fret numbers 0, 2, 4, and 5.

Fourth system of musical notation. It includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth notes. The guitar tablature includes fret numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The tablature includes plectrum symbols (V) and fret numbers 0, 2, 4, and 5.

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1 1 1 1 4 1 1 3 1
 3 2 3 3 3 2 2 2 3
 2 4 5 7 7 7 7 9 7 5 4 2
 4 5 7 8 8 8 9 8 6 4 2

1/2 B II

2 2 4 2 2 2

1 1 1

1 1 1 1 2 1 4
 2 3 2 2 4 2 1
 4 4 5 7 7 7 7 9 10 9 4
 5 5 7 9 9 9 9 10 9 9 12

4/6 B IX

2/6 B V

1 4 2 1
 5 9 7 5

0 1 2 3

1 1 1

2 3 4 2 1
 3 7 5 4
 4 5 4

1 3 1 2 0 2

1 3 1 2 0 2

2 4 2 2 2 4 2 2

0 0 0 0 0 0

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

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

rit.

2 2 2 2

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

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

2 2 2 2