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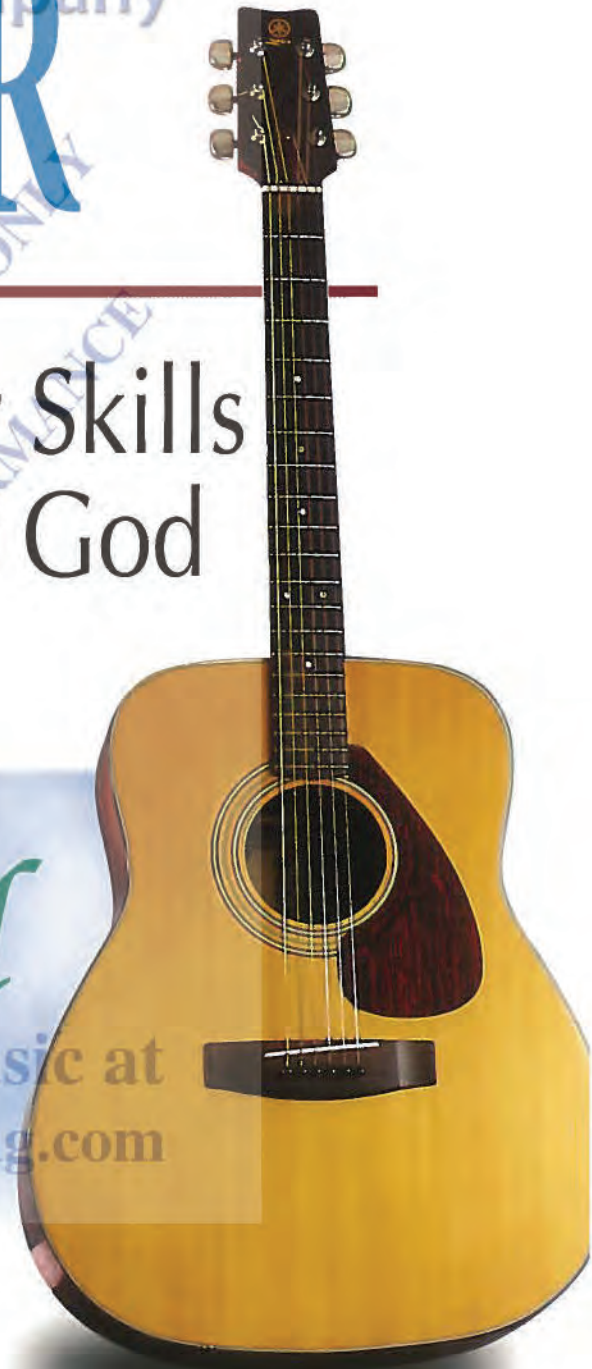


Fretboard

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Praising God,
Playing Guitar



Praise and Worship Guitar

*Advancing guitar skills
for the glory of God*

by Steve Turley

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My sincerest gratitude is due to Lou Dicker. The Lord has blessed Fretboard Fellowship with his management skills and Christ-centered life.

The process of obtaining copyright permission to use the songs required hours of meticulous work, which Gaill Thompson carried out with utmost competence. I sincerely thank the work she has contributed to the ministry.

I would also like to thank the students at Eastern College, who have long desired to see a course on praise and worship guitar, for their encouragement. It is a joy to watch lives given to God in a constant act of worship.

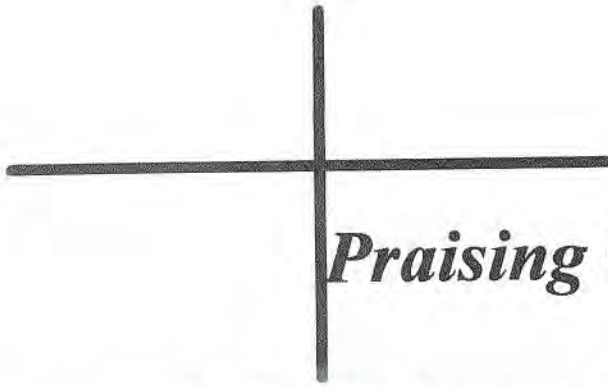
A heart felt thanks to Andy Mitchell, one of Fretboard Fellowship's most valued teachers, who put up with the constant changes of the curriculum without once complaining.

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Most importantly, my deepest gratitude goes to my wife, Akiko, who has worked so hard for the ministry of Fretboard Fellowship. Her personal touch on this book has given it beauty and life.

Steve Turley
March 1999

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Praising God

In worship music, we find a profound unity of knowledge and love. The words of a song express an eternal idea of God, conveying a knowledge of the radiance of his glory to all his people. And surrounding these words flows a melody that sweeps the words up into a celestial sound of affection and love, where the wonders of knowledge and heartfelt delights awaken into song. In worship music, the people of God may both know their God and love their God.

This is what we do in music. We express his truth with love and affection. We bind together knowledge and passion. This is why we sing. We sing joyfully--to the Lord!

Learning to play the guitar for the glory of God can be used to inspire a passion for worship in many areas. You can use your new skill for house churches and Bible studies, family devotions with your children, for prison ministries, nursing homes, Sunday school, and praise bands.

The vision of Fretboard Fellowship is to inspire you to make all of life an exercise in worship. We have also included doxologies throughout your song book, which are studies in God's praise. It seemed only fitting to ornament a guitar method composed for the glory of God with words from those whose very lives testify of God's glory. Savor these worship thoughts as they glitter in the light of the music, that you may rejoice in the sweetness of God through them, and develop a passion for worship as you grow in your musical ability.

It is our prayer that the church may not just sing these songs, but live them! Taste every God-entranced sentence, and feast on the pleasures of the Lord. Let us joyfully raise our guitars in his radiance, to the praise of the living Christ, pointing all peoples to the wondrous cross, and the majestic eternity that awaits those who place their trust in Him.

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Playing Guitar

Praise and Worship Guitar equips those who already play guitar with:

- 49 hymns and choruses transposed to guitar friendly keys
- Practice CD with guitar strum patterns and vocals
- Information on How to Lead Worship
- Technical Exercises/ Transposition Skills/ Fingerpicking
- Practice and Playing Tips

It is designed as a one-stop reference for those who desire to play guitar in praise and worship settings.

The Songs

The music is divided up by the following topics: Adoration, Assurance, The Cross, Forgiveness, Grace, Lordship, and Majesty. All music has been selected for the power and depth in the words communicating the truth of God.

Practice CD

A CD is included that contains the guitar strum patterns and vocals for every song in the book, so you can practice and master the songs by playing along with the recording before you play publicly.

Technical Exercises, Fingerpicking and Transposition

All exercises are designed to increase the dexterity of the left hand and develop greater ease on the fretboard. Fingerpicking techniques add skill and beauty to your guitar playing. And transpositions come in handy in praise music, since the keys they are written in can be very uncomfortable to play on the guitar.

If you want to get the most out of advancing your guitar skills, you should be using this book while attending a weekly Fretboard Fellowship class at a local church. These classes are designed to encourage you in your guitar playing by giving you the weekly opportunity to play with other guitarists, lead worship in a classroom environment, participate in worship opportunities such as nursing homes, and equip you with answers to the inevitable questions. If your church would like to host a Fretboard Fellowship class, call 1-800-770-0390.

May God richly bless you as you glorify His Name through song!

Steve Turley,
Founder/President, Fretboard Fellowship

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

“Worship God!” Revelation 22:9

Worship as Ritual Drama

MAN-CENTERED WORSHIP

Man-centered worship seeks to meet our needs as *we define them*. The congregation perceives themselves as the audience as they watch (and review) the pastors and staff act out the play that God has prepared for them. *Since 1892*

Director	God
Actors	Pastor/Music Ministry
Audience	Congregation

GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP

God-centered worship is the complete opposite. It seeks to meet our needs as *God defines them*. The congregation makes up the actors, receiving their lines from the Sunday programs they are handed. This redemptive drama is directed by the pastors and music ministry. So who's the audience?

Director	Pastor/Music Ministry
Actors	Congregation
Audience	God

God is the audience for our worship. He pours forth His grace into our open hands as we proclaim His supremacy, excellency and worth. Worship magnifies and exalts God, for God Himself has paid the price to see our worship, the life of His very own Son. Worship God!

*We are indebted to Pastor Ron Scates,
of Central Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, for this illustration.*



The Relevance of Hymns in Contemporary Society

Do hymns still have relevance in our contemporary culture? Many people don't seem to think so. More and more, churches are turning to contemporary praise songs as their sole musical expression of worship. But I believe there is a discussion much needed in the church about the significance of this shift.

The justification of this shift tends to focus more on style than substance. The discussion ought not to center on taste, that is organs vs. synthesizers, Sunday finery vs. casual wear, etc. A person does not become a fan of country music through an argument. The discussion must center on the content of the music and its relation to us as the recipients of God's Word in the modern world.

The significance of hymns is their clear expression of the knowledge of God. This God to whom we are singing is identified and completely distinct from all other gods and faiths. Contemporary praise songs, conversely, tend to focus more on our affections towards God. Theological confessions tend to take a back seat to shorter and simpler expressions of personal praise.

Now, why does this matter? It has great significance. A Muslim, for example, cannot sing a hymn and really mean what he is singing. That is because he would be professing statements that directly contradict his Islamic doctrine. However, a Muslim can sing many contemporary praise songs and never utter a contradiction of his faith. This is because contemporary praise songs tend to focus on our affections for God, as opposed to doctrinal distinctions.

*"(Allah), is an awesome god, he reigns from heaven above with wisdom power and love,
(Allah) is an awesome god."*

But a Muslim cannot sing "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross", or,

*"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord
She is His new creation by water and the Word
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride
With His own blood he bought her and for her life He died."*

Obviously, we are not saying that we must discard contemporary praise songs. The point is discarding hymns completely for contemporary praise songs is dangerous, since contemporary praise songs tend not to define the God to whom we are singing. And if there is no doctrinal distinction, then our Christian faith loses its identification and character.

This needs to be thought through. Churches should not avoid the blending of hymns with contemporary praise songs. Our God is both the God of Mount Sinai and the Christ who put His arm around the woman at the well. For the one, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" codifies the event. For the woman at the well, "I Love You, Lord" speaks beautifully.

Let us joyously sing to our Lord and Savior, who is distinct and set apart from all peoples, all philosophies, and all other gods. For as we sing and profess our faith unto Him, we ourselves are set apart from the world, in His presence, and there we love to be.

Glorifying God In Song

Here are some things you can do to edify the body of Christ with your guitar.

Proclaim - All the songs you play should faithfully proclaim the truths of God. You can share the gospel through song by selecting music from each topic. God is holy (Holy, Holy, Holy), and we are fatally fallen sinners. This holy God, by His grace and for His glory, proceeds to rescue a sinful people from His just wrath to worship Him forever (El Shaddai). The problem of sinful man worshipping a holy God is resolved on the cross of Christ (When I Survey the Wondrous Cross) and in His resurrection and exaltation (He Is Exalted). Now redeemed, we may go through this very difficult life knowing that no matter what happens, He is with us (It Is Well With My Soul) and we may worship Him forever (Shine, Jesus, Shine).

Practice - There is no substitute for preparation. Put together your song list and practice with the CD until you are comfortable playing each song. Make song sheets for each of the songs you practiced, and have them ready to distribute among worshipers. The song sheets will also help to avoid requests for songs you don't yet know.

Pray - Before you begin to play, ask for God's blessing on yourself and all who will sing and hear God's Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften hearts and glorify His truth. Confess to God that the beauty of worship does not consist in your efforts or abilities, but in your relationship to God, through Jesus Christ, and the glorious work of the Holy Spirit shining through the gathering of His people.

Play - Simply play through your songs. Start off with one that is easy for you to play and that everyone knows, like *Amazing Grace*. Once you get past the first one, the rest are much easier.

**Remember, in your proclaiming, practicing, praying, and playing,
God is glorified all the way through.**

*"For from him, and through him, and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:36)*

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PRELIMINARIES

Three Basic Strum Patterns

↓ = strum down

↑ = strum up

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Fretboard Fellowship uses three basic strum patterns:

- If the time signature is 4/4 , use:

↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑
1 2 + 3 + 4 +

- If the time signature is 3/4 , use:

↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑
1 2 + 3 +

- If the time signature is 2/4 , use:

↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑
1 2 + 1 2 +

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A Mighty Fortress is our God on page 32 uses a 1/4 time signature, in which case strum down each chord once.

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How To Read The Song Sheets

The song sheets are set up as follows:

1 - Time Signatures

A time signature is given in each song that corresponds to one of your three strum patterns. Every chord in the song gets one strum pattern. For example, *Firm Foundation* has a 2/4 time signature:

FIRM FOUNDATION

(A-B-A-B-A)

2/4 Intro: G - G - C - D - G - G - C - D

A

G G C D
Je - sus, You're my firm foundation,

G G C D
I know I can stand secure,

A 2/4 time signature means every chord in the song is strummed for two beats.
ex.)

G	G	C	D
↓	↓ ↑	↓	↓ ↑
1	2 +	1	2 +

It does not matter how close or how far apart the chords are from each other. Every chord, unless otherwise indicated, gets a 2/4 strum pattern.

When chords have a (3), (2), or (1) next to them, this simply means the chord is strummed for however many beats are signified by the number in the brackets. For example:

O WORSHIP THE KING

3/4 Intro: G(2) - D(1) - G - C - D

The G chord is strummed for two beats, the D chord is strummed for one beat, and the following chords (G - C - D) are all strummed for three beats.

example:

G			D	G				C				D						
↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑			
1	2	+	3	1	2	+	3	+	1	2	+	3	+	1	2	+	3	+

2 - Song Form Designations

Many songs will have song form designations. These appear directly below the title of the song. *Firm Foundation* has a song form designation of (A-B-A-B-A).

FIRM FOUNDATION

(A-B-A-B-A)

2/4 Intro: G - G - C - D - G - G - C - D

A

G G C D
Je - sus, You're my firm foundation,

G G C D
I know I can stand secure,

See page for the whole song.

The song is made up of two sections, sections: **A** **B**

A begins with: "Jesus, You're my firm foundation", and ends with: "I put my hope in Your holy Word"

B begins with "I have a living hope", and ends with: "Of this I'm sure"

(A-B-A-B-A) means:

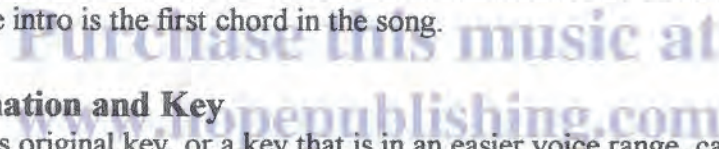
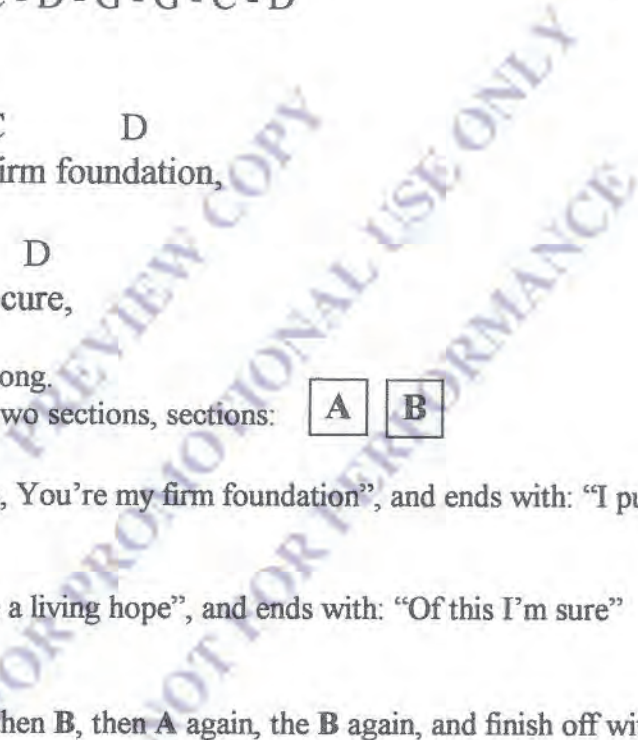
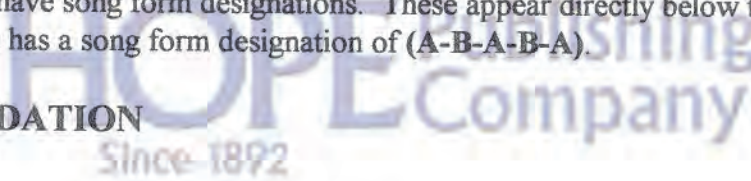
Play through section A, then B, then A again, the B again, and finish off with A.

3 - Intro

The introduction of a song is played first. Introductions establish the tempo and key of a song. The easiest way to create an intro is to use the first or last few chords of the song. It helps if the last chord in the intro is the first chord in the song.

4 - Capo Designation and Key

To play a song in its original key, or a key that is in an easier voice range, capo designations are provided. Capo designations tell you what fret to place the capo on. For instance, (capo IV) means place the capo across the fourth fret. Keys have been adjusted whenever a capo is used. For more information on keys, see the section entitled Transpositions.



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Practice Tips

Consistency - It's not how much time you put into the guitar each day, it's that you put in time each day. Having said that, 20 minutes to an half hour per day would be great.

Purpose Practice - Have a clear idea of what you need to practice. Songs that are comfortable and easy do not need to be practiced! For example, focus on the songs that contain chords you tend to avoid.

Practice System - Good practice will blend a balance of areas:

- 1 New Songs - this will develop new chords
- 2 Old Songs - this will develop a considerable praise and worship library

Divide your practice up in the two parts, and practice each of these areas accordingly.

Good Rhythm - Make sure to maintain a steady beat as you strum. A metronome would provide an objective beat for you to play with.

Amount of Material - Don't plan to play more songs than you can handle in your practice.

Playing Tips

When playing with others or leading singing, note the following:

Tempo - Watch out for playing too fast. The speeds of songs are affected by nervousness. Keep your tempos at exactly the speeds you have been practicing them.

Difficulty Level - Avoid the tendency to play songs that are too difficult for your present skills. Always play within a technical level that is comfortable.

God-Centered Expectations - Not every time you play will feel great. If it doesn't go well, relax. Always remember, the beauty of worship does not consist in what you do, but in the glory of God shining through your faithfulness.

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THE ADORATION OF CHRIST

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PERFORMANCE

God is glorified not only by His glory's being seen, but by its being rejoiced in. When those that see it delight in it, God is more glorified than if they only see it. His glory is then received by the whole soul, both by the understanding and the heart. God made the world that He might communicate, and the creature receive, His glory; and that it might [be] received both by the mind and heart.

Jonathan Edwards

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ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Words by ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Music TRADITIONAL GERMAN MELODY



Capo I - Key of Eb

2/4 Intro: D - D - D - bm - A - A

D D D bm A A D D D bm A A
 1) All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and let us sing
 2) Thou rushing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along
 3) Thou flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for thy Lord to hear
 4) And all ye men of tender heart, For giving others, take your part
 5) Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness

D G D bm E A A
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 O praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 O sing ye, Al - le - lu - ia!
 O praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia!

D D D G A A G D bm G A A
 Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening, find a voice,
 Thou fire so masterful and bright, That givest man both warmth and light,
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise Go and on Him cast your care,
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One,

REFRAIN:

G A D em A bm
 O praise Him, O praise Him,

bm G A D G A G A A D D
 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

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AS THE DEER
 Words and Music by
 MARTIN NYSTROM



Track 2

Capo IV - Key of B

4/4 Intro: G - D - em - G - C - D - G - D

- G D em G C D G D
 1) As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.
 2) I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.
 3) You're my Friend and You are my Brother, even though you are a King.

G D em G C D G G
 You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.
 You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.
 I love You more than any others, so much more than anything.

REFRAIN

em em C G C em am B7 B7
 You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield.

G D em G C D G G
 You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

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AWESOME GOD

Words and Music by RICH MULLINS



Track 3

Key of E minor

4/4 Intro: em - em

em

em

1) When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just putting on the ritz

2) And when the sky was starless in the void of the night

am(2)

D(2)

em

Our God is an awesome God

Our God is an awesome God

em

em

There is thunder in His footsteps and lightning in His fists

He spoke into the darkness and created the light

am(2)

D(2)

em

Our God is an awesome God

Our God is an awesome God

am

am

The Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden

Judgment and wrath He poured out on Sodom

D

D

It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood

Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross

C

am

His return is very close and so you better be believing that

I hope that we have not too quickly forgotten that

am(2)

D(2)

em

Our God is an awesome God.

Our God is an awesome God.

CHORUS (2x):

C

G

Our God is an awesome God

D

em

He reigns from Heaven above

C

G

With wisdom power and love

am(2)

D(2)

em

Our God is an awesome God