

country songs to learn on guitar

Country songs to learn on guitar are an excellent way to enhance your skills while enjoying the heartfelt melodies and storytelling that the genre is known for. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced player, there are countless country songs that you can add to your repertoire. In this article, we will explore some of the best country songs to learn on guitar, breaking them down by difficulty levels, and discussing the unique elements that make these songs stand out.

Why Learn Country Songs on Guitar?

Learning country songs on guitar offers numerous benefits:

- **Melodic simplicity:** Many country songs feature straightforward chord progressions that are easy to follow, making them accessible for beginners.
- **Storytelling:** Country music is known for its storytelling, allowing you to connect emotionally with the songs you play.
- **Variety of styles:** The genre encompasses a range of styles, from traditional country to modern country pop, giving you the opportunity to explore different musical avenues.
- **Performance opportunities:** Country songs are popular in jam sessions and open mic nights, providing ample chances to showcase your skills.

Beginner Country Songs

For those just starting with guitar, it's essential to choose songs that are easy to play. Here are some beginner-friendly country songs that feature simple chords and straightforward strumming patterns.

1. "Jolene" by Dolly Parton

This classic song is not only iconic but also features a simple chord progression. The chords used are Am, C, and G, making it perfect for beginners. The strumming pattern is easy to grasp, and the song's emotional depth allows you to practice expressing feelings through your playing.

2. "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver

This beloved anthem is a must-learn for any aspiring country guitarist. It uses G, Em, C, and D chords, which are foundational for many songs. The song has a memorable melody and is often sung along to, making it great for gatherings.

3. "Folsom Prison Blues" by Johnny Cash

A staple in country music, "Folsom Prison Blues" features a simple I-IV-V chord progression (E, A, B7). The song's steady rhythm allows beginners to focus on their timing and strumming consistency.

Intermediate Country Songs

Once you feel comfortable with the basics, you can start to challenge yourself with some intermediate country songs. These tracks often incorporate more chords and varied strumming patterns.

1. "Wagon Wheel" by Old Crow Medicine Show

"Wagon Wheel" has become a modern classic and is a favorite at jam sessions. It features a repetitive chord progression (A, E, Fm, D) that makes it easy to learn. The song's upbeat nature and sing-along quality make it a perfect choice for gatherings.

2. "Chicken Fried" by Zac Brown Band

This feel-good anthem is great for practicing your chord transitions. The song uses G, D, Em, and C chords, and it has a relaxed strumming pattern. The lyrics celebrate simple pleasures, making it relatable and enjoyable to play.

3. "Tennessee Whiskey" by Chris Stapleton

With its soulful melody and emotional lyrics, "Tennessee Whiskey" is a beautiful song to learn. It features a simple chord progression (A, Bm, D, E) and allows you to experiment with fingerpicking techniques, making it a great choice for intermediate players.

Advanced Country Songs

For those looking to take their guitar skills to the next level, advanced country songs often include intricate fingerpicking, complex chord progressions, and unique techniques like slide guitar.

1. "Blue Ain't Your Color" by Keith Urban

This song combines beautiful melodies with advanced chord shapes (A, Bm, D, E) and requires a nuanced strumming pattern. The emotional delivery and subtle nuances make it an excellent choice for advanced players looking to showcase their skills.

2. "The Gambler" by Kenny Rogers

"The Gambler" is a storytelling masterpiece that features a mix of chords (C, G, Am, D) and a rhythmic picking style. This song is perfect for practicing both strumming and fingerpicking, allowing you to develop versatility in your playing.

3. "If I Had a Boat" by Lyle Lovett

This song is an excellent example of advanced country songwriting. It features an unusual chord progression and incorporates fingerpicking. The lyrical imagery is rich, and mastering this song can greatly enhance your guitar skills.

Essential Techniques for Playing Country Music

To excel at country music, here are some essential guitar techniques you should practice:

1. Fingerpicking

Fingerpicking is a hallmark of country music. Many songs feature intricate patterns that add depth to your playing. Start by practicing simple fingerpicking exercises before incorporating them into songs.

2. Strumming Patterns

Understanding various strumming patterns is crucial for playing country music. Listen to the rhythm of your favorite songs and try to replicate the feel. Experiment with different patterns to enhance your playing style.

3. Slide Guitar

Slide guitar adds a unique sound to country music. Using a slide can create beautiful melodies and smooth transitions between notes. Practice using a slide on your fingers to develop this skill.

Conclusion

In summary, **country songs to learn on guitar** are diverse and cater to various skill levels. From timeless classics like "Jolene" to modern hits like "Wagon Wheel," there is a wealth of material to choose from. As you advance in your guitar journey, don't hesitate to challenge yourself with more complex songs and techniques.

Remember, the key to becoming a proficient guitarist is consistent practice and a willingness to learn. Whether you're playing for yourself, family, friends, or a larger audience, the joy of playing country music will undoubtedly enhance your musical experience. So grab your guitar, choose a song, and start strumming!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some easy country songs for beginners to learn on guitar?

Some easy country songs for beginners include 'Jolene' by Dolly Parton, 'Wagon Wheel' by Old Crow Medicine Show, and 'Take Me Home, Country Roads' by John Denver.

Which country songs have the most common chord progressions for guitar players?

Many country songs use common chord progressions like G-C-D or C-G-Am-F. Examples include 'Folsom Prison Blues' by Johnny Cash and 'Ring of Fire', also by Cash.

What are some popular country songs currently trending that are great for guitar practice?

Trending country songs that are great for guitar practice include 'Forever After All' by Luke Combs, 'Sand in My Boots' by Morgan Wallen, and 'Buy Dirt' by Jordan Davis and Luke Bryan.

Are there any country songs that incorporate fingerpicking techniques for guitar?

Yes, songs like 'Tennessee Whiskey' by Chris Stapleton and 'Blackbird' by The Beatles (often covered in a country style) include beautiful fingerpicking techniques.

What resources can I use to find tabs for popular country songs on guitar?

You can find tabs for popular country songs on websites like Ultimate Guitar, Songsterr, and YouTube tutorials, which often provide step-by-step instructions.

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