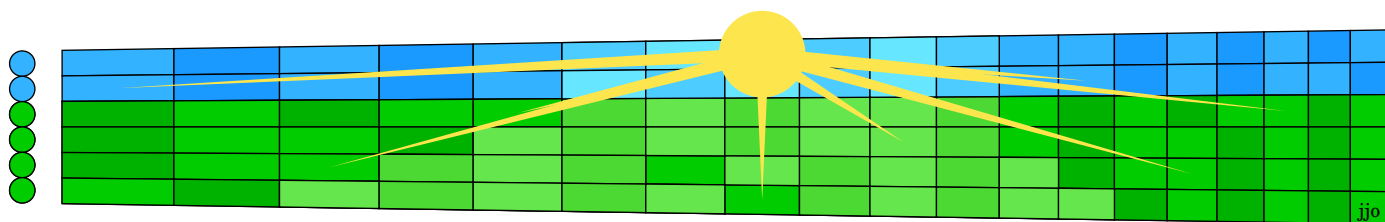


June Fretboard Exercises

A Summer Morning Sightread



Good morning on a good day . . .

Exercise 1: I 1 II 2 III 5

♩. = 60

C Am C C

6 Am E E

11 Eaug E E Am

16 G G C

22 Am Dm Dm

27 Bdim G C Am Dm E

32 Am Dm7 G

37 C Am C Am C

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Exercise 1 Grieg(1875): Peer Gynt, Op.46, No.1, Morning Mood	1
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Norwegian composer, Edvard Grieg, wrote this music for a play by a Norwegian writer, Henrik Ibsen, that was about a Norwegian character, Peer Gynt, who at times interacts with creatures from Norwegian folklore. So you might expect this music is about a Norwegian morning, with the sun rising over cool forests and fjords.

The actual scene for which it was written is nothing like that. The character Peer Gynt is a bit of a scoundrel who has trouble making lasting relations with other people. This leads to him being abandoned by his associates who sail off over night, leaving him stranded in Morocco. Peer awakes as the sun rises over the Saharan desert. He's not in Norway anymore and things are looking bleak.

Nevertheless “Morning Mood” has become associated with scenes of peace, tranquility and hope for the new day. Its gentle waves of simple pentatonic arpeggios suggest all is right with the world. Perhaps that's due to Grieg republishing selected music from the play as suites that became popular independent of the play. The music has its own message.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lKo6TYDXCQ> Vienna Philharmonic (2015)

As a sightreading exercise this one is fairly low and slow, making it a good first-position piece. Take it in two beats per measure with about a second for each beat. Nice and relaxed.

Chords suggested by the arpeggios are listed, in case you'd like to experiment a bit. The chords also flag how the piece progresses slowly from the opening C/Am, modulating to E where the Eaug adds some interest. After it gets to Dm, the chords transform beat-by-beat (measure 27) until the climax is reached with the E chord. That's when the sun rises above the horizon.

For more reading wikipedia has an interesting article describing the plot of the play, revealing what an odd character Peer is. In a nutshell, its a play about procrastination and avoidance, which is why Peer gets into so much trouble.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peer_Gynt#Plot

These exercises are from the yet to be released book “Chromatic Fretboard Exercises”, which contains over a thousand such exercises and will be made available for free on IMSLP. The contents may be freely copied and modified, but with the condition that they be attributed to J. J. Olson (CC-BY license).

Interested? Contact Jeff Olson at jjocanoe@gmail.com

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