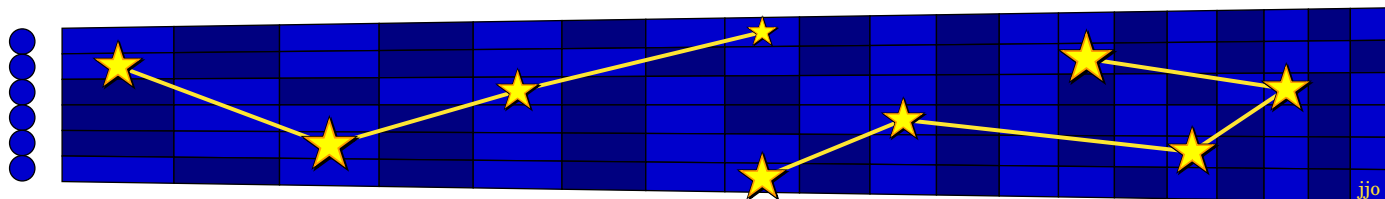


March Fretboard Exercises

Little Stellar Sightreads for Two Guitars

J. J. Olson



Enjoy as a duet, but mind the rests!

Exercise 1: I 1 II 3 III 2 IV 3 V 2 VI 3 VII 1 VIII 3 IX 1 X 3 XI 4 ③

♩ = 84

Exercise 2: I 2 ⑥

♩ = 84

Exercise 1	Mozart(1782): K.265 Ah Vous Dirai-je Maman, Var. 5, primo	1
Exercise 2	Mozart(1782): K.265 Ah Vous Dirai-je Maman, Var. 5, secondo	1

Ah Vous Dirai-je Maman?

You may know this as “*Twinkle Twinkle*”, but it's a French folk tune dating back to 1740. In 1774 it was published as “*La Confidence naïve*” with lyrics in which a little girl confides to her mother about an imagined first love affair.

*Ah! Shall I tell you, Mama,
What causes my torment?
Ever since I saw Silvandre
Look at me so tenderly,
My heart says every moment:
“Can we live without a lover?”*

Mozart, in 1782 at the age of about 26, wrote twelve variations on that melody, ensuring its popularity and survival. Despite its original association with an affair, the melody was adapted for multiple English children's songs, which may be why some people continue to believe Mozart composed Twinkle Twinkle:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twinkle,_Twinkle,_Little_Star
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baa,_Baa,_Black_Sheep
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_ABC_Song

This history comes from Wikipedia. For even more, see ...

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ah!_vous_dirai-je,_maman (with translated lyrics)
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelve_Variations_on_%22Ah_vous_dirai-je,_Maman%22

This Duet

Mozart wrote his twelve variations for two hands on one piano, and this particular variation has extreme alternation between the two parts, making it ideal for a lively guitar duet. His theme and all twelve variations are available as guitar duets on the IMSLP link below.

- <https://imslp.org/wiki/Special:ReverseLookup/556946>

Exercises 1 and 2 on the first page come from the above arrangements, but have been further simplified for sightreading. They are still challenging fun to play together because of the way they interlock; each part plays only on the other's rests. It helps to keep that in mind while you're reading.

It's even more fun, and entertaining, to accelerate the tempo continuously throughout the piece until the wheels are about to fly off (e.g. from 84 up to 128 beats per minute), like this:

- <https://jjolson.net/BGS/Mar2024.mp3> (the duet in 27 seconds!)

Interested? Contact Jeff Olson at [**jjocanoe@gmail.com**](mailto:jjocanoe@gmail.com)

*P.S. It easiest to follow these links if you **get the pdf** as indicated on the first page.*