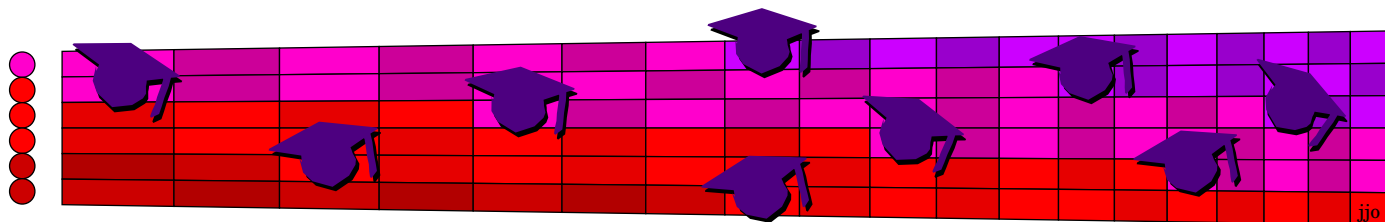


May Fretboard Exercises

Graduation Sightreading Surprises



Whatever your school colors, graduation music is still the same, except in Japan:

Exercise 1: Inagaki(1881): “Hotaru no Hikari” (Glow of a Firefly)

♩ = 112

Exercise 2: I 0 II 3 III 4 IV 2 V 4 VI 6 VII 1 VIII 4 IX 1 X 5 XI 6 ③ ④

♩ = 120

Exercise 3: I 1 II 2 III 4 IV 4 V 4 VI 6 VII 3 VIII 6

♩ = 120

Exercise 1	Inagaki(1881): Hotaru no Hikari (Glow of a Firefly)	1
Exercise 2	European(1782): Gaudeamus Igitur	1
Exercise 3	Elgar(1901): Pomp and Circumstance, Op.39, No.1	1

Music you've heard before can still surprise you ...

Exercise 1 will surprise you when you play it! The melody was reused in 1881 by Chikai Inagaki to celebrate the hardships that good students must overcome in order to graduate, such as **reading by the glow of a firefly**. It has become synonymous with fond farewells, and even played by restaurants in Japan before closing time. Play it in positions I, VII and IX or on the G string.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotaru_no_Hikari
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzFyxc698mU> (Japanese & English lyrics)

Exercise 2 is still played at many European graduations but, surprise, it was originally a European **student beer-drinking song** from the 13th century whose ribald Latin lyrics often required censoring. And another surprise, Brahms humorously used it, along with other student drinking songs, in his **Academic Festival Overture** (1880) when the University of Breslau insisted he write a special composition in exchange for them granting him an honorary doctorate. Imagine their surprise! Allan Sherman (1964) also used it as the trio in his **Drop Outs March**, with lyrics beginning “Ignoramus, there you are, sitting in your hopped up car”.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaudeamus_igitur
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha6pGK6ZnXE> (Latin & English lyrics)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5pzzr5655yw&t=530s> (Brahms, 1880)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o07ecJiXhuE&t=90s> (Allan Sherman, 1964)

Exercise 3 is the one you expect to hear at every graduation, but you may yet be surprised at the exuberance that **British** audiences display when it is played every year during **Last Night at the Proms**, a tradition since 1901 when it was composed. There are also some unsurprising renditions on guitar, both classical and metal.

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pomp_and_Circumstance_Marches#History
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2-43p3GVTQ&t=290s> (BBC Proms, 2014)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enxSzzfHEJE&t=88s> (LA Guitar Academy, 2014)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocdd1wCWhiI&t=52s> (Metal guitar, 2022)

Chords are shown in this BGS edition in case you want to ad lib. Exercise 1 is a straight 1-4-5 piece. So is Exercise 2 but for the C-Bdim-Am progression, which is just three descending diatonic triads added for variety instead of the typical C-G7-C. Exercise 3 is a bit more colorful. Have fun!

These exercises are from the yet to be released books “Diatonic Fretboard Exercises”, and “Chromatic Fretboard Exercises”, which together contain over two 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

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