

Position Studies, Volume 1

Composed by Jeffrey Tanner

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Performance Notes

These studies were written to provide knowledge of the fretboard in positions commonly found in guitar music. The objective of these exercises was to enable the students to read melodies in upper positions quickly to facilitate the reading of ensemble music. Each position is divided into two pages with the first page concentrating on notes on the bass strings, and the second page concentrating on the trebles. This enables the teacher and student to focus on the treble strings in the higher positions to facilitate ensemble reading and performance and then begin mastering the basses at a later date if desired. Each song progresses in difficulty from step-wise motion to utilizing intervals of thirds or more. When feasible, exercises were written without accidentals to encourage knowledge of natural note locations on the fretboard. There are a total of four volumes, enabling the teacher to change volumes every school year so that students do not repeat the exercises within a typical four year High School guitar program. Students may begin instruction with any volume and progress through the series.

About the Composer

Jeff Tanner lives in Ashburn, Virginia with his wife and son. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from James Madison University and received his Masters of Music Education Degree from Shenandoah University where he studied guitar under Glen Caluda. He has been an instrumental music teacher at Loudoun Valley High School since 1987, beginning the guitar program in 1990. He has taught guitar at Loudoun Valley, Broad Run, and Loudoun County High Schools and has also served as a Guitar Clinician and Specialist for the Loudoun County Public Schools.

Mr. Tanner actively pursues guitar composition and arrangement, as well as recording studio technology and synthesis. He has designed and taught several music technology courses for the Loudoun County Public Schools and has been an Adjunct Professor for Shenandoah University. His work is published through Class Guitar Resources and Funky Bear Music.

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2nd Position Bases

F# G A B C# D E F# G A B C# D E F# G A

Song 1

Song 2

Song 3

Song 4

2nd Position Trebles

F# G A B C# D E F# G A B C# D E F# G A

A musical staff in treble clef showing the 2nd position scale. The notes are F# (finger 1), G (finger 2), A (finger 4), B (finger 1), C# (finger 3), D (finger 4), E (finger 1), F# (finger 3), G (finger 4), A (finger 1), B (finger 3), C# (finger 1), D (finger 2), E (finger 4), F# (finger 1), G (finger 2), and A (finger 4). Below the staff are brackets with circled numbers 1 through 6, indicating fingerings for groups of notes: 1-4, 1-3-4, 1-3, 1-2-4, and 1-2-4.

Song 1

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes.

Song 2

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes.

Song 3

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes.

Song 4

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes.

7th Position Basses

6

B C D E F G A B C D E F G A B C D

Fingerings: 1 2 4, 1 2 4, 1 3 4, 1 3 4, 2 4, 1 2 4

Fret numbers: ⑥, ⑤, ④, ③, ②, ①

Detailed description: This block shows the 7th position bass scale on a treble clef staff. The notes are B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 below the notes. Fret numbers are indicated by circled numbers ⑥, ⑤, ④, ③, ②, ① below the notes. Brackets connect the fret numbers to the corresponding notes.

Song 1

Detailed description: Musical staff for Song 1, starting with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

Detailed description: Continuation of Song 1, showing the second half of the melody with quarter notes: E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

Song 2

Detailed description: Musical staff for Song 2, starting with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

Detailed description: Continuation of Song 2, showing the second half of the melody with quarter notes: E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

Song 3

Detailed description: Musical staff for Song 3, starting with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

Detailed description: Continuation of Song 3, showing the second half of the melody with quarter notes: E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

Song 4

Detailed description: Musical staff for Song 4, starting with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

Detailed description: Continuation of Song 4, showing the second half of the melody with quarter notes: E, F, G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D.

9th Position Trebles

D E F# G A B C# D E F# G A B C# D E

2 4 1 2 4 1 3 4 1 3 4 2 4 1 2 4

⑥ ⑤ ④ ③ ② ①

Song 1

Song 2

Song 3

Song 4