

The Old Rugged Cross

(AGW Vol 3 No 1)

About the music . . .

Methodist evangelist George Bennard wrote this hymn in 1913. It is reported to be the most popular gospel song of the 20th century. An interesting footnote: Rev. Bennard composed this tune *on his guitar*.

I later rearranged and rerecorded *The Old Rugged Cross* for my **Hymns for Fingerstyle Guitar** book/CD set (Alfred Publications).

Performance notes . . .

I usually play the opening section rubato, with a good bit of vibrato. Don't rush, and try for as much feeling as possible. Take a breath just before that diminished chord in measure 16.

At measure 33, I play the melody with a three-finger tremolo (p, i, m) that sounds in triplets. The thumb plays the bass note, and the index and middle fingers follow with the tremolo on the melody note. Listen closely to the recording to get the idea.

If you wish, you can omit the tremolo, and play the melody as you normally would. I'll demonstrate both techniques on the recording- the music is notated to allow you to play it either way.

About the recording . . .

I used a Takamine C-126 classical equipped with a Baggs saddle pickup.

The Old Rugged Cross by George Bennard- arr. Craig B. Dobbins

©1995 Craig B. Dobbins (BMI). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

1

4 5 7 6 9 7 7 7 9 8 11 9 9

Detailed description: This system contains measures 1 through 5. The music is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Measure 1 starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G4. Measures 2-5 continue with a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The guitar tablature below shows fingerings: measure 1 (4, 5), measure 2 (7), measure 3 (6, 9), measure 4 (7, 7, 7), and measure 5 (9, 8, 11, 9, 9).

6

11 9 7 5 7 5 4 0 1 3 2 5
0 2 4 3 5

Detailed description: This system contains measures 6 through 10. Measures 6-8 continue the melody. Measure 9 has a whole note chord. Measure 10 has a whole note chord. The guitar tablature shows fingerings: measure 6 (11, 9, 7), measure 7 (5, 7, 5), measure 8 (4), measure 9 (0, 1, 3, 2, 5), and measure 10 (0, 2, 4, 3, 5).

11

D7

3 3 3 5 4 7 5 0 2 1 0 3 8 7 5
4 4 5 4 7 5 5 6 0 2 1 5 9 7 5
0 5 6 0 2 1 5 0

Detailed description: This system contains measures 11 through 15. Measure 11 has a whole note chord. Measures 12-15 continue the melody. The guitar tablature shows fingerings: measure 11 (3, 4), measure 12 (3, 3, 4), measure 13 (5, 4, 7, 5), measure 14 (0, 2, 1, 0, 3), and measure 15 (8, 7, 5, 9, 7, 5). A D7 chord is indicated above measure 14.

16

Am7 V II 2/3 V D7 G Gaug

3 2 3 5 5 5 5 3 2 3 0 0 3 0 3 0 3 2
4 2 3 0 5 5 0 5 1 2 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 3 2
0 5 5 0 5 2 3 0 0 0 1 0 0 3 2

Detailed description: This system contains measures 16 through 20. Measure 16 has a whole note chord. Measures 17-20 continue the melody. The guitar tablature shows fingerings: measure 16 (3, 4), measure 17 (2, 3, 2, 3), measure 18 (5, 5, 5, 5), measure 19 (3, 2, 1, 2), and measure 20 (3, 0, 0, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3, 2). Chords Am7 V, II, 2/3 V, D7, G, and Gaug are indicated above the staff.

The Old Rugged Cross

21

C Am7 G III

26

C E7/B Am

31

2/3 V----- G

36

Gaug C Am7 Bb6(add E)

This page contains an acoustic guitar tab for the hymn 'The Old Rugged Cross'. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It is divided into four systems, each with a treble clef staff, a bass clef staff, and a three-string guitar staff. The guitar staff uses a simplified notation system with numbers 0-9 for frets and letters for chords. The first system (measures 21-25) includes chords C, Am7, and G III. The second system (measures 26-30) includes C, E7/B, and Am. The third system (measures 31-35) includes a 2/3 V section and a G chord. The fourth system (measures 36-40) includes Gaug, C, Am7, and Bb6(add E) chords. The tab includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and accidentals.

The Old Rugged Cross

41

C E7/B Am

7 8 0 0 8 7 7 7 8 7 0 1 3 0 1 8 8 7 5 3
 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 8 7 0 5 4 0
 3 2 2 0 <12>

46

Fadd9 CaddG G

3 2 5 3 1 3 3 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 5 2 5 3 2 1 3 1 1 0 1 3 0 1 0 2 0
 3 3 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 3 3