CLASSICAL SONGS TO PLAY ON HARMONICA
Quick Note About the Song Levels

All of the songs in this songbook require the skill to play single notes (the ability to play only one note at a time). Because I consider playing single notes an intermediate level technique, even the simplest kids’ songs will be rated at an intermediate level (essentially, I don’t consider playing songs a beginning level skill). My DVDs are full of beginning level jams and exercises that are super fun, sound great and will ensure that you develop good habits by learning to walk before you learn to run. I highly recommend you practice with my DVDs before playing the songs in this songbook (unless you feel confident that you are properly using the deep relaxed embouchure while playing single notes).

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Introduction

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

You've taken a huge first step in creating your dreams for playing the harmonica. I'm honored that you've given me this opportunity to support you on this musical journey. The way I look at it, we're in this thing together.

If you succeed, I succeed! Since the majority of my students just want to play for their own enjoyment, I define success as: The satisfaction YOU get when you play music that makes you happy!

Because I want you to succeed in enjoying the harmonica, I highly recommend that you play through my first few DVDs before trying to learn any of the songs in this songbook.

My experience teaching for twenty years has shown me that students have the highest level of success if they develop good habits prior to learning songs. Most harmonica teachers encourage students to learn songs right away and I believe that this can be a recipe for failure. I'm confident that playing through my DVDs first will be the quickest way for you to play the songs you love because you will develop the essential skills you need first... that way you won't get frustrated.

I have found that many students develop bad habits if they try to learn songs when they're not yet ready. Many students are so eager to learn songs that they just can't wait. The choice is yours and I respect your free choice. If you're having fun learning songs and you're staying relaxed, it's probably fine, but if you're finding that you're struggling and getting frustrated please come back to learning songs after you've played through my DVDs first.
Suggestions For Learning Songs

1. **Use a 10-hole Diatonic Harmonica (that’s the most common 10-hole harmonica without any fancy stuff or a button on the side).** You can play all of the songs with any key harmonica you choose. If you want to play along with a band or an original recording, you will need to find out the key of the song and use the appropriate key harmonica (refer to the Blues DVDs for understanding how to do this).

2. **If you’re trying to learn a song and it’s not going well, move on to a different song that’s easier for you.** I personally found many of the advanced songs in this songbook challenging, so I expect you may too.

3. **Instead of trying to learn lots of songs, you might find it helpful to focus your energy on one song that you love.** Pick a song that is easy for you and play it over and over. You may even want to memorize it. Then you can surprise your friends and relatives when you’re ready (or just play it for your own enjoyment). I recommend you play the songs that you are familiar with and skip the ones you don’t know.

4. **FEEL FREE TO BE CREATIVE!!!** When I learn songs, I always assume they’re not written exactly correct and I give myself the freedom to add my own touch. I like to use harmonica tablature as a guideline. For example, when the same note is played twice I sometimes like to play it only once and sustain it with a soulful feeling. So, whether you’re playing the songs from this songbook or if you’re finding songs on the Internet, I recommend you give yourself the freedom to change the notes so they sound right to you.

5. **Be patient with yourself.** If you are having difficulty playing the 2-draw hole or the 3-draw hole, you’re not alone. Most students find it very difficult to create a clear sweet note on these holes (so your harmonica is probably not broken. Refer to my DVD, Finally Learning to Bend, for extra support on these notes). Holes 8, 9 and 10 can also be very difficult.

6. **Use The Finger Trick.** As explained on my DVDs, you can use the finger trick if you’re not confident that you’re on the right note. Quick Review: Use the pointer fingers (index fingers) of both hands to physically obstruct the undesired notes so that only the note you want to play is left unobstructed. This trick still helps me sometimes, so I’m guessing it may help you too.

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How to Read Harmonica Tablature

The easiest way to learn harmonica tablature is to study the examples below. They all involve playing single notes (which means playing only one hole at a time). If you don’t already know how to play single notes and to be able to confidently jump from one single note to the next, I recommend playing with my DVDs before proceeding.

When playing the harmonica tabs in this document, the key to the notes is as follows:

1     means blow on hole number 1
-1     means draw on hole number 1
4  means blow on hole number 4
-4     means draw on hole number 4
45     means blow on hole number 4 and hole number 5 at the same time
-45     means draw on hole number 4 and hole number 5 at the same time

The "+" symbol is also a common method for representing a blow note. It is used occasionally to familiarize you with this system.

1 or +1    means blow on hole number 1
4 or +4    means blow on hole number 4

Bending

(Refer to my DVD’s for deeper understanding and to be able to play these advanced techniques)

-2’ means play 2 draw bent down a half step
-2” means play 2 draw bent down two half steps
-2’’ means play 2 draw bent down three half steps

Note: Some harp tabs use the letter b instead of the ‘ to represent levels of bending.

Quiz:

To see if you understand the chart above, here is a little quiz.

What note would you play for the following examples?

Example 1: 5
Example 2: -7
Example 3: -12
Example 4: 9'

Answers:

Example 1:    5 means blow on hole number 5
Example 2:   -7 means draw on hole number 7
Example 3:   -12 means draw on hole number 1 and hole number 2 at the same time
             (Did you remember that, because we’re playing a 10-hole harmonica, there is no hole number 12?)
Example 4:    9’ means blow on hole number 9 and bend it down a half step
Ode to Joy

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccccccc}
5 & 5 & -5 & 6 & 6 & -5 & 5 & -4 & 4 & 4 & -4 & 5 & 5 & -4 & -4 \\
4 & 4 & -4 & 5 & 5 & -4 & 4 & -3 & 3 & 3 & -3 & 4 & 4 & -3 & -3 \\
3 & 3 & -3 & 4 & 4 & -3 & 3 & -2 & 2 & 2 & -2 & 3 & 3 & -2 & -2 \\
5 & 5 & -5 & 6 & 6 & -5 & 5 & -4 & 4 & 4 & -4 & 5 & -4 & 4 & 4 \\
4 & 4 & -4 & 5 & 5 & -4 & 4 & -3 & 3 & 3 & -3 & 4 & -3 & 3 & 3 \\
3 & 3 & -3 & 4 & 4 & -3 & 3 & -2 & 2 & 2 & -2 & 3 & -2 & 2 & 2 \\
\end{array}
\]
Greensleeves

-6 7 -8 8 -9 8 -8 -7 6 -6
A--las, my lo-ve, you do me wrong,
-7 7 -6 -6 6 -6 -7 6 5
To cast me off di--s-courteously.
-6 7 -8 8 -9 8 -8 -7 6 -6
For I have loved you well and long,
-7 7 -7 -6 -6b 6 -6b -6 -6
De-ligh-ting i---n your company.

Chorus

9 9 -9 8 -8 -7 6 -6 -7
Greensleeves was all my jo------y
7 -6 -6 6 -6 -7 6 5
Green-sleeves was my delight,
9 9 -9 8 -8 -7 6 -6
Greensleeves was my heart of go-ld,
-7 7 -7 -6 -6b 6 -6b -6 -6
And who but my La------dy Greensleeves.

Your vows you've broken, like my heart,
Oh, why did you so enrapture me?
Now I remain in a world apart
But my heart remains in captivity.

I have been ready at your hand,
To grant whatever you would crave,
I have both wagered life and land,
Your love and good-will for to have.

If you intend thus to disdain,
It does the more enrapture me,
And even so, I still remain
A lover in captivity.

My men were clothed all in green,
And they did ever wait on thee;
All this was gallant to be seen,
And yet thou wouldst not love me.
Thou couldst desire no earthly thing,
but still thou hadst it readily.
Thy music still to play and sing;
And yet thou wouldst not love me.

Well, I will pray to God on high,
that thou my constancy mayst see,
And that yet once before I die,
Thou wilt vouchsafe to love me.

Ah, Greensleeves, now farewell, adieu,
To God I pray to prosper thee,
For I am still thy lover true,
Come once again and love me.
Canon in D

+8 -8 +7 -7 -6 +6 -6 -7  
(+8+9) +6 (-7-8) +6 (+7+6) 
+5 -7 +5 (-5-6) +5 +4 (+5+6) 
+4 (-5-6) +4 +6 -4  
+7 -7 +7 -7 +7 +8 +9 -10 -9 
+8 -8 -9 +8 -8 +7 -7 -6 +6 
-5 +5 -4 +5 -5 (+5+6) +6 
+6 -6 +6 -5 (+4+5) +5 +5 -5 
+5 -4 +4 -3 -3' -3 +4 +4 +4 
-3' -3'' +4 -3 +4 -4  
(+3+5) (-3-4) -3'' -3  
-3'' -2 -3 +4 -3 (+3+4+5)
Air on the G String

+7  -9  -8  -7  -6  +6  -6  +6  -5  +5  
+8  +7  +6  -5  -7  -6  +8  -8  
-8  -7  -5  +5  -6  +6  -8  +7  +7  
-8  +8  -6  -6  -7  +7  +7  -7  -7  -6  
+6  -5  -5  +6  -6  +6  -5  +5  

(repeat this section 1x)

+6  +6  -6  +6  -5  +6  +5  +8  +6  -5  
-9  -9  +8  -8  +7  -8  -8  +7  -7  -6  +6  -5  
+5  -5  +6  +6  -6  -7  -7  +7  -8  +7  
-7  -6  +6  -5  +6  -6  -7  -6  
-5  -6  -6  +7  -7  -6  -9  +8  -8  
+7  -7  +8  +5  -5  +6  -6  +6  -5  +5  
-6  +7  -7  -7  -8  +7  +7  +8  -8  -8  
+5  +5  +6  -7  -8  -8  -7  +7  +7  -8  +8  
-6  -6  +7  +9  -9  -6  +6  -7  -8  -5  +5  
-7  +7  -8  +7  -7  -6  +6  -5  +6  -6  -6  -6  

(repeat this section 1x)
Ave Maria

-5 5 -5 -6 6 -5 6 -6 6 -5 5 -4 5
A~~~ve Ma-ri~~~~~~a Oh listen to a mortal’s
-5 -6 -6 6 -5 5-4 -6-7 -6 b-6
pray`r We pray Oh Ma-ri-a maiden mild~~~~
5 6 -5 5 6 -6 -7 6 5 -5
For thou can hear us from yon-der wild
-6 6 6 5 -4b6 -6 7 -6 b6 -5
And thou can save us from des-pair
-4 5 b6 5 -4 4
Save us from des-pair
4 6 6 6 b6 6 -6 6 -6 b6
May we sleep saf-ely in thy care Thy care
b6 6 6 6 b6 6 -7-6 6 -5
Though we be out-cast and re-viled
-5 -5 6 6 -6 -6 -6 6 -6 7 -7
Maiden hear a heart in fer-vent prayer~~~~~~
-4 -6 6 -5 -5 5 -5 b-6 6 -5 6
Oh Mother pray hear a suppliant child~~~~~~
-5 5 -5 -6 6 -5
A~~~ve Mar-ri~~~~~a~~~~~
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
(1st movement)

+4 +3 +4
+3 +4 +3 +4 +5 +6
-5 -4 -5
-5 -4 -3 -4 +3

+4 +4
+5 -4 +4 +4 -3 -3
-4 -5 -3 -4 +4 +4
+5 -4 +4 +4 -3 -3
-4 -5 -3
+4 +4
+4 -3 -3’’ -3 +4 +4 +5 +5
+6 -5 +5 -5 +6

(+5+6)
+6 -5 -5
-5 +5 +5
+5 -4 -4
+4 -3 -3’’ -3
+4 -4 +5

(+5+6)
+6 -5 -5
-5 +5 +5
+5 -4 -4
+4 -3 -3’’ -3
+4 -4 +5

+4 +5 +4
(Upper register version—no bends required)

+7 +6 +7  
+6 +7 +6 +7 +8 +9  
-9 -8 -9  
-9 -8 -7 -8 +6  

+7 +7  
+8 -8 +7 +7 -7 -7  
-8 +8 -7 -8 +7 +7  
+8 -8 +7 +7 -7 -7  
-8 -9 -7  
+7 +7  
+7 -7 -6 -7 +7 +8 +8  
+9 -9 +8 -8 +9  

(+8+9)  
+9 -9 -9  
-9 +8 +8  
+8 -8 -8  
+7 -7 -6 -7  
+7 -8 +8  

(+8+9)  
+9 -9 -9  
-9 +8 +8  
+8 -8 -8  
+7 -7 -6 -7  
+8 -8 +8  

+7 +8 +7
Brahms' Lullaby

5 5 6 5 5 6
5 6 7 -7 -6 -6 6
-4 5 -5 -4 -4 5 -5
-4 -5 -7 -6 6 -7 7
4 4 7 -6 -5 6
5 4 -5 6 -6 6
4 4 7 -6 -5 6
5 4 -5 6 -5 5 -4 4