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Free Tab #001:

Shendanoah – Open G tuning, key of C

Tips About This TAB:

Shenandoah is one of the most famous and endearing songs from the great American folk era of the late 1800s. While its exact origins remain a mystery, it was certainly a sea shanty, and was likely sung widely in the French-Canadian culture of North America before becoming a much more popular song in the American song catalogue.

As a testament to its compelling melody that invites artistic interpretation, it's been performed and recorded by many of the most famous folk and roots musicians of the twentieth century, including Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Jerry Garcia and David Grisman, and Tom Waits with Keith Richards.

The song has acquired a variety of lyrics, of course, but it is the haunting melody that stands the test of time here. The song needs no lyrics to evoke the grandeur of North America.

The song is often played on lap steel. As a slide guitar piece, it begs the artist to draw out the melody using the standard slide trick and licks.

The goal here was to provide you with the raw melody. By utilizing the key of C, this keeps the song well within the practical fretboard range of an acoustic guitar in Open G tuning.

Not much harmony in the way of bass notes has been applied here. You can certainly search for more, but does it need more? The best way to approach this song is to extract the most from the basic melody first.

Historical Resource: <https://balladofamerica.org/shenandoah/>

SHENANDOAH - OPEN G TUNING

Traditional - Arranged by Dirk Johnson
Key of C - Open G Tuning

♩ = 120

Open G Tuning: D B G G D B

The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of a guitar melody line and a fretboard diagram below it. The fretboard diagram shows the fret numbers for each string (D, B, G, G, D, B) and includes bar lines to indicate measure boundaries. Chord symbols (C, F, Em, C7, Am) are placed above the melody line to indicate the harmonic structure. The melody line includes fingerings (1-4) and slurs to indicate phrasing. The fretboard diagram includes fingerings (5, 7, 9, 8, 10, 8, (8), 10, 9) and bar lines to indicate measure boundaries.

Chord symbols: C, F, Em, C7, Am

Fretboard diagram: 5, 5, 5, 5, (5), 7, 9, 8, 10, 8, (8), 10, 9

Measure numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

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