

First Studies in E minor

by John Francis

A "Study" is a piece of music that is composed to develop a particular technique. Unlike most exercises which can be tedious, studies usually have melodic elements. Many have made fine concert pieces. The French call them "Etudes." The Spanish call them "Estudios." These first studies in E minor were chosen because of E minor's relative ease on the guitar. Four of the six open strings lie within the E minor chord. The extensive use of open strings allows the player to focus more on the right hand. There are also no notes that follow each other on the same string. The second example is much like the first, except that the pattern is expanded to include the third string, "G," and is based around a triplet feel. These pieces are to be played using "free strokes." Let each note ring as long as it can. Hold each fingered note until you are forced to release it.

1

The first study is in 4/4 time, marked with a '1' and a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The melodic line on the treble clef consists of eighth notes: E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The guitar notation for the bottom three strings (T, A, B) shows fret numbers: T (0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0), A (1, 0, 1, 3, 1, 0, 1), and B (0). The second measure is identical.

3

The third study is in 4/4 time, marked with a '3' and a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The melodic line on the treble clef consists of eighth notes: E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The guitar notation for the bottom three strings (T, A, B) shows fret numbers: T (0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0), A (0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0), and B (0). The second measure is identical.

5

The fifth study is in 4/4 time, marked with a '5' and a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The melodic line on the treble clef consists of eighth notes: E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The guitar notation for the bottom three strings (T, A, B) shows fret numbers: T (1, 0, 1, 3, 1, 0, 1), A (1, 0, 1, 3, 1, 0, 1), and B (0). The second measure is identical.

7

The seventh study is in 4/4 time, marked with a '7' and a 'p' (piano) dynamic. The melodic line on the treble clef consists of eighth notes: E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4. The guitar notation for the bottom three strings (T, A, B) shows fret numbers: T (0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0), A (0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0), and B (0). The second measure is identical.

9

8

T 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

A 1 0 1 3 1 0 1

B 2 0

11

8

T 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

A 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

B 0 0 2 2 0

2

8

T 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

A 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0

3

8

T 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

A 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

5

8

T 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0

A 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0

B 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

7

8

T A B

9

8

T A B

11

8

T A B

3

8

T A B

3

8

T A B

5

8

T 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0 1 0

A 0 1 0 1 0 3 1 0 1 0

B 0 2 3

7

8

T 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0

A 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0

B 0 2 2

9

8

T 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 0

A 0 1 1 0 3 1 0 1 0 0

B 2 3

11

8

T 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

A 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

B 0 2 3