

Fire Dance

Learning Targets

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand how to read an ensemble score
- Track one music part or line as it moves from system to system
- Execute four new extended techniques on guitar
- Perform Fire Dance accurately as a solo or as an ensemble while demonstrating principles of ergonomic technique

What's New?

- Crossing to the 1st string for only one pitch, then crossing back to the 2nd string
- Playing as an ensemble
- New percussion sounds in all three parts

What's Challenging?

- In the Solo part, the right-hand finger pattern of m. 1
- Waiting until beat 3 to stomp in m. 2 (it is easy to accidentally stomp on beat 2)
- Playing your part while hearing other parts playing different pitches and rhythms
- Transitioning to the third system which is different from the repetition in the first and second systems

Component Practice Suggestions

- To practice the right-hand fingering pattern in m. 1 of the Solo part:
 - Play the 1st string once with the m finger, then the 2nd string three times using I-M-I fingers. You'll play 1st-2nd-2nd-2nd using m-i-m-i fingers. Do this slowly and with a steady rhythm several times.
 - Once you're comfortable with that, add the left hand and fret the D note on beats 2 and 4.
- In measures 2, 4, 6, and 8, practice counting "1-and-2-and Stomp" out loud. This will help you feel the eighth note subdivision during the half note and prevent you from accidentally stomping too soon. This is applicable to both the Solo part and Part 2.
- Think of this piece as having two distinct sections: mm. 1-8 and mm. 9-12.
 - Take time to thoroughly practice both sections. It is easy, for instance, to only focus on mm. 1-8 mm leaving mm. 9-12 feeling less secure.
 - Once you're confident playing both sections, practice transitioning from one to the other.