

# Prelude in C Major for Guitar

## Op. 114, No. 1

by **Ferdinando Carulli**  
c1770-1841

This *Prelude* is an optional supplement to the book *Guitar QuickStart* by Mary Jo Disler, ISBN 0-9642229-0-6. It is a classic example of what may be termed a “chord piece,” so typical of much music written for classic guitar. Students may be helped to discover the relationship between chord tablature fingerings and notated music by studying this *Prelude*. It is played entirely within first position, so beginning guitarists can work out the notation. It also uses basic chords studied in *Guitar QuickStart*, although some of them are inversions and have chord tones other than the root in the bass line.

The combination of notes in each measure forms one chord. The blank chord frames may be marked with the notation fingerings found in each measure as a strategy for discovering the chord identity. Where the lowest notes are not the roots, or the highest notes are not in the basic chord fingering, students may try 2 things to determine the chord name:

1. Compare the sound of the chord in the *Prelude* with the sound of the common fingering which seems most likely.
2. Name the bass or other differing note. Verify that the same letter name is found on another string in the common chord fingering that seems to be a match. If the letters all agree, then the chord has been identified. If the bass is not the root, the *Prelude* fingering is an inversion of the chord. (If students have studied the theory of chord spelling, they can use this information to confirm the chord's identity.)

Fretboard fingerings are deliberately omitted, since the notes are entirely within first position. Working this out will help students develop a thought process which relates fingering decisions to fretboard layout.

Freestroke hand fingerings use the thumb (P) for all bass down-stem notes, with the index finger (i) on string ② and the middle finger (m) on string ①.

And after all the work is done, it is lovely to play, and very satisfying to beginning students!

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3 3 3 3

4

7

10

13

Play this piece with a freestroke technique, because it consists of a succession of chords, one for each measure. As you work it out, you will discover that most of the fingerings are similar to common chords learned in *Guitar QuickStart* - Disler ( ISBN 0-9642229-0-6 ). Diagram the fingerings for each measure on the blank chord frames, and see if you can discover the names of most of the chords. Some of the fingerings relate to common chords, but have a different bass note or high note. You may be able to figure out which chord by comparing the sound of the fingering with the sound of the familiar chord fingering most like it. If the differing note is the same as a letter found on another string of the same chord, then you have found the right one.