

# **Gentle Serenades**

Michael Bemmels  
2023

## Gentle Serenades

With these four *Gentle Serenades*, I wanted to create music that was heartfelt, relaxing, intimate, and highly accessible to both players and listeners. This is the first time I have included tablature in a guitar composition, and I hope it will open up the music to players who may not yet have a formal training in reading standard notation of classical guitar music.

All four of the *Serenades* should be played slowly, calmly, and with a richly sustained resonance. I left the compositions in a very basic and bare state, but I think it would be fine for performers to add their own embellishments to the music if they feel the desire to (either improvised, or prepared in advance). The designated use of a capo is highly recommended, though ultimately not essential.

I anticipate that some people may find these pieces to be inconceivably boring or simplistic, but if we approach them with the right mindset, then I think there is much to appreciate about them (even for experienced or professional players). To me, it feels like a deeply meditative and peaceful experience to play these pieces. They can perhaps serve as an easy warm up exercise, or as a way to unwind and release stress. Ultimately I hope that these pieces will help lead us to have a rewarding sensation of serenity, while also opening up our artistic imaginations and creative capacities for self-expression.

Michael Bemmels

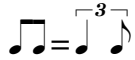
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# Gentle Serenades

## No. 1 - Floating Leaves

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Capo Fret 1



*p* let ring throughout

T	0	6	0	6	7	0	6	0	6	7	0	6	0	6
A	0	6	6	7	0	0	6	6	7	0	0	6	6	7
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5

*mp*

T	7	0	6	0	6	9	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	
A	0	6	6	7	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0

9

T	7	0	6	0	6	9	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	
A	0	6	6	7	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0

13

*mp*

T	0	3	5	3	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	0	3	1	3	0	2	3	0	3	0	2	3
A	0	5	3	3	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	0	3	1	3	0	2	3	0	3	0	2	3
B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

17

2

-2

*cresc.*

3 2

*mf*

T 0 3 5 3

A 0 2 0 3 0

B 4 3 1 3

21

2

3

*mf*

T 1 0 2 1

A 1 0 2 1 3

B 0 2 0 1

24

2

*p*

*rit.*

T 0 6 0 6

A 0 6 0 6

B 0 7 0 6 6 0

# No. 2 - Early Snow

1 2 -2 1

*p*

TAB: 5 8 5 | 7 8 7 | 5 6 5 | 3 5 3

A: 0 0 | 0 7 0 | 0 5 0 | 0 5 0

B: 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0

5 -1 -1 -1

TAB: 5 8 5 | 8 10 8 | 6 8 6 | 5 7 5

A: 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0

B: 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0

9

TAB: 3 2 0 3 | 2 3 2 3 | 0 3 2 0 2 3 | 5 3 5

A: 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0

B: 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0

13

*mf*

TAB: 5 8 5 | 7 8 7 | 5 6 5 | 3 5 3

A: 0 0 | 0 7 0 | 0 5 0 | 0 5 0

B: 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0

17

TAB: 5 8 5 | 8 10 8 | 6 8 6 | 5 7 5

21

TAB: 0 3 2 0 3 | 2 3 2 3 | 0 3 2 0 2 3 | 5 3 5

25

*mp*

TAB: 5 3 5 3 | 5 3 5 3 | 5 3 5 3 | 5 3 5 3

29

*rall.*

TAB: 5 3 5 3 | 5 3 5 3 | 3 2 0 2 3 | 2 2 3

# No. 3 - Mist Descending

Capo Fret 2

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The second measure features a triplet of eighth notes: D5, C5, and B4. The third measure continues with quarter notes A4, G4, and F#4. The fourth measure concludes with quarter notes E4, D4, and C4. The dynamic marking *p* is placed below the first measure. The guitar tablature below shows the corresponding fret numbers for each note.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Measure 5 begins with a half note chord G4-B4-D5. Measure 6 features a half note chord A4-C5-E5. Measure 7 contains a half note chord B4-D5-F#5. Measure 8 ends with a half note chord C5-E5-G5. The guitar tablature includes triplets of eighth notes in measures 5 and 7, and a quarter note triplet in measure 8.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Measure 9 starts with a half note chord D5-F#5-A5. Measure 10 features a half note chord E5-G5-B5. Measure 11 contains a half note chord F#5-A5-C6. Measure 12 ends with a half note chord G5-B5-D6. The guitar tablature shows various fret numbers and includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 11.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13 begins with a half note chord A5-C6-E6. Measure 14 features a half note chord B5-D6-F#6. Measure 15 contains a half note chord C6-E6-G6. Measure 16 ends with a half note chord D6-F#6-A6. The guitar tablature includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 13 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 15.

17

*mf*

TAB

0	0	5	0	0	3	0	5	5	2	2
3	3		2	2	2	4	3	4	0	0
0			0			0		0		0

21

*mp*

TAB

3	0	2	0	5	4	0	4	0	2	2	0
0		0		0					4	4	
2		1	0	0		4		4			

25

*mf*

TAB

3	2	3	2	3	3	3	0	0	1	3	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	
												2									
2					3			0	3			0	2		2				0		2

30

*p*

TAB

0	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0			
0		2	2	0	2	0		0	0	2					0	2	2	2	0		



# No. 4 - Fireside Reverie

⑥=D

Capo 3rd Fret

The musical score is presented in four systems, each consisting of a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The tablature uses numbers 0-7 to indicate fret positions. The first system (measures 1-5) features a melody of eighth and quarter notes with a bass line of chords. The second system (measures 6-10) includes a repeat sign in measure 8. The third system (measures 11-15) continues the melodic and harmonic development. The fourth system (measures 16-20) concludes with a melodic phrase and a final chord.

21

TAB

T	2	0	0	1	0
A	0	2	2	4	2
B	0	2	2	4	0

25

*mf*

TAB

T	0	7	0	0	3	0	7	0	7	0	3
A	6	7	7	5	3	0	3	2	3	6	7
B	0	7	7	5	3	0	3	2	4	6	7

31

1. 2.

*rit.*

TAB

T	0	0	2	3	0	0	2	3
A	0	0	2	4	0	0	2	4
B	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0