

Greensleeves

Attributed to John Dowland

Arr. H.G. Pellegrin

Guitar

The image shows a guitar score for the piece 'Greensleeves'. It consists of five staves of music. The first four staves are in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The fifth staff is in a different clef and includes a '1/2, C5' marking. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and chords, along with guitar-specific instructions like 'p.' (piano) and fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4).

John Dowland (1563 - 1626)

It is not known if Dowland was of English or Irish heritage, but he was born in Londo and although failing at first to gain an court position due to his Catholic faith, he did wind up court lutenist to King James I after spending many years in the royal court of Denmark. He punned his own name John Dowland *Semper Dolens*, latin for always sad. His musical output reflected this melancholy, probably due to his professional frustrations.

This peice, often referred to as Greensleeves, is of unknown origin, though many scholars have attributed it to Dowland. Through the years it has been used as a secular tune, a Christmas carol, and in many radio and television commercials. Obviously over-used, still, it is a hauntingly lovely melody.

This harmonization is fairly traditional, though unlike early lute tabs. Some additional and distinctly non-period harmonies have been incorporated to keep the student from using too much of his or her preconceived notions of what this piece should sound like and thereby forcing the student to read each note and chord.