

Drop D Tuning

⑥ = D

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel

(1653-1706)

The image shows the first 17 measures of the Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel, arranged for guitar in Drop D tuning. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The guitar is tuned to Drop D (D5, A4, D4, G3, B2, D2). The notation includes fingerings (1-4), bar lines, and dynamic markings. The piece is in a canon form, with the melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The score is divided into five systems of four measures each, with measure numbers 1, 5, 9, 13, and 17 indicated at the start of each system. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody starting on D5 and a bass line starting on D2. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody and bass line. The third system (measures 9-12) shows the melody moving to E5 and the bass line moving to D2. The fourth system (measures 13-16) shows the melody moving to F#5 and the bass line moving to D2. The fifth system (measures 17-20) shows the melody moving to G5 and the bass line moving to D2. The score ends with a double bar line at measure 17.

A TAB edition of this work is available.

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If playing this at a wedding you will want to stop when the bride reaches the alter, you can end immediately by playing a D chord after any double barline. You can also repeat any of the sections or go back to previous sections after any double barline.

If you want a very simple start, play the bassline on its own before beginning.

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