

Skye Boat Song

"The Skye Boat Song" is a 19th-century Scottish folk song. I wrote an easy arrangement of this song for a 27 string Celtic lever harp, which you can hear me play on a 27 string Camac Odyssey in this video:

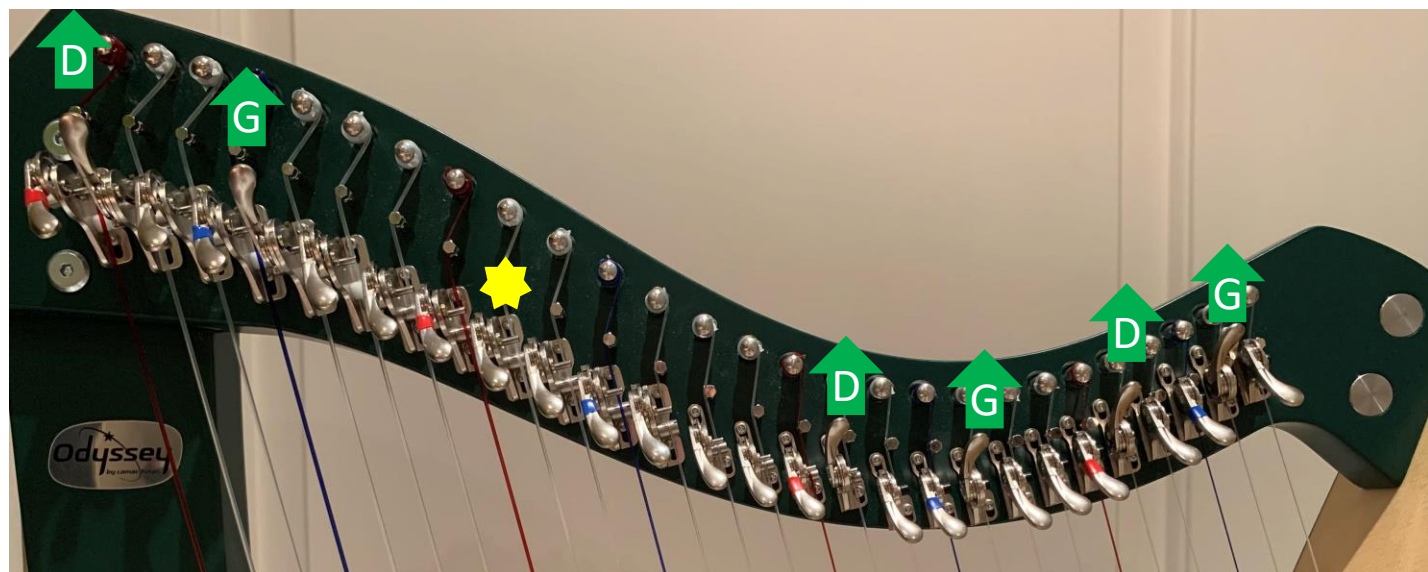
<https://youtu.be/80FXC4QXRLQ>

I wanted this arrangement to be as easy and as relaxing as possible to play! So in order to do that, I tuned most of my strings in pentatonic tuning (so that I could play nice-sounding glissandi with my left hand) – except for the middle strings which I tuned diatonically (so I could play richer harmonies with my right hand). So the left hand accompaniment of the melody is essentially made of effortless glissandi. Not only are glissandi probably the most fun AND the easiest harp technique to play, but the flowing notes also recall the sea waves that the Skye Boat is riding! Because the left hand is so simple you only need to focus on the right hand, which makes the piece accessible for beginner players.

To make this easy piece work, the most important thing is to make sure you tune your harp properly so that you can get away with pentatonic glissandi for your left hand! So here are the tuning instructions explaining how to do that.

STEP 1: put all your harp levers down, and tune your harp in Eb.

STEP 2: now, lift UP all the levers indicated with a green arrow.



STEP 3: take your tuning key and re-tune the string indicated with a star as Db (instead of D).

You are ready to go – enjoy the boat ride!

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Easy Arrangement for 27 string Celtic Harp by Marianne Bouvette

Measures 1-2 of the Skye Boat Song. The music is in 6/8 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The right hand is mostly silent, indicated by a whole rest. The left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with glissando markings.

Measures 3-4 of the Skye Boat Song. The right hand remains silent with whole rests. The left hand continues the eighth-note glissando pattern.

Measures 5-6 of the Skye Boat Song. The right hand begins with a melody of eighth notes and chords. The left hand continues the eighth-note glissando pattern.

Measures 7-8 of the Skye Boat Song. The right hand continues the melody. The left hand continues the eighth-note glissando pattern.

Measures 9-10 of the Skye Boat Song. The right hand continues the melody. The left hand continues the eighth-note glissando pattern.

11

Musical notation for measures 11-12. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music features a sequence of chords in the upper staff and glissando lines in the lower staff. The glissando lines are marked with a wavy line and the word "gliss.". The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final bass clef.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-14. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of three flats. The music features a sequence of chords in the upper staff and glissando lines in the lower staff. The glissando lines are marked with a wavy line and the word "gliss.". The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final bass clef.

15

Musical notation for measures 15-16. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of three flats. The music features a sequence of chords in the upper staff and glissando lines in the lower staff. The glissando lines are marked with a wavy line and the word "gliss.". The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final bass clef.

17

Musical notation for measures 17-18. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of three flats. The music features a sequence of chords in the upper staff and glissando lines in the lower staff. The glissando lines are marked with a wavy line and the word "gliss.". The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final bass clef.

19

Musical notation for measures 19-20. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of three flats. The music features a sequence of chords in the upper staff and glissando lines in the lower staff. The glissando lines are marked with a wavy line and the word "gliss.". The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final bass clef.

21

Musical notation for measures 21-22. The piece is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a bass line with glissando markings and rests.

23

Musical notation for measures 23-24. The right hand continues the melodic line, with a glissando in the final measure. The left hand maintains the glissando bass line.

25

Musical notation for measures 25-26. The right hand continues the melodic line, and the left hand maintains the glissando bass line.

27

Musical notation for measures 27-28. The right hand continues the melodic line, with a glissando in the final measure. The left hand maintains the glissando bass line.