

Molly Malone (Cockles and Mussels)

My grandma sang this to my mom as a baby and of course I heard it first from my mom too: "Molly Malone". The song tells the fictional tale of a fishmonger who plied her trade on the streets of Dublin, but who "died of a fever".

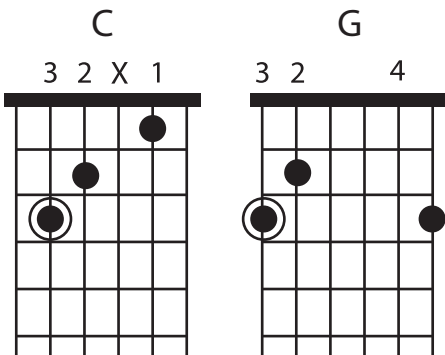
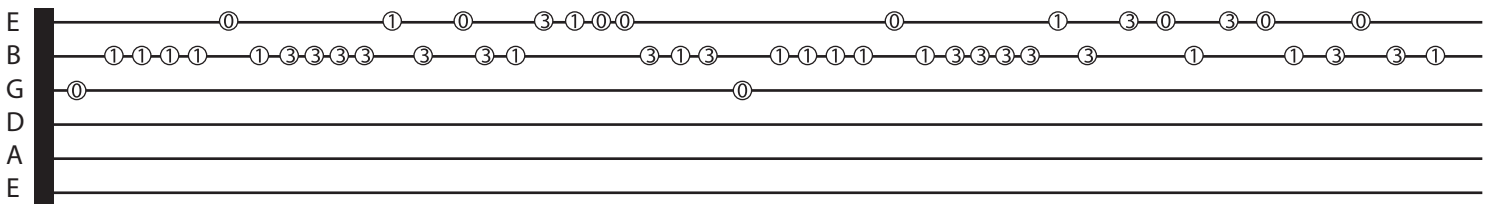
I like this tune in G as a starting point for fingerpicking because in the first position you can pick the melody right out of the two chords you need- G and C. And to get your timing down, you can articulate the syllables of the lyrics as quarter notes, taking just a few liberties, like this:

G C C C C C C G G G G G
In Dub - lin's fair cit - y where maids are so pret - ty

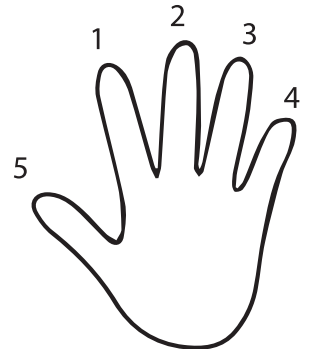
G C C C C C C C C C G
I first set my eyes on miss mol - lee ma - lone

You can see by following the lyrics & syllables where the chords change.

Of course you can play the tune just with the chord changes, perhaps accompanying yourself vocally. But the idea is to play the melody while playing the chords too! Here's a tab for the melody line, again in the first position. Try it out:



Chords are to the left, and you'll want to use position your fingers as indicated so you can move quickly to the next notes. Below is the tab for the melody line above, only including the notes from the chords as well. I play this by plucking between my thumb and first finger. Watch the video and you'll get a sense of what's happening.



The numbers indicate which finger to use.

www.guitaratsixty.com/vid/molly.mp4

