GENERAL

ashokan farewell fingerstyle guitar tab

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

For guitar enthusiasts who crave a blend of lyrical storytelling and intricate fingerpicking, the song “Farewell” by Ashokan offers an irresistible challenge. Whether you’re a seasoned player or a beginner looking for a rewarding piece to master, the **ashokan farewell fingerstyle guitar tab**provides a clear roadmap to capturing the song’s emotive depth. This article will walk you through the background of the artist, the musical structure of the track, how to read and interpret the tab, step by step guidance on playing each section, and practical tips to refine your technique. By the end, you’ll have both the knowledge and confidence to bring this beautiful composition to life on your own instrument.

Who Is Ashokan?

Before diving into the tab itself, it’s worth understanding the artist behind the music. Ashokan is a contemporary singer songwriter known for his introspective lyrics and acoustic arrangements that often feature complex fingerstyle patterns. His music bridges folk, indie, and soft rock, appealing to listeners who appreciate nuanced melodies and heartfelt storytelling. “Farewell” stands out as a quintessential Ashokan track, combining melancholic chord progressions with a delicate yet expressive picking style.

Why “Farewell” Is a Fingerstyle Gem

The song’s arrangement is built around a repeating arpeggio pattern that highlights the natural resonance of open strings. The fingerpicking technique used by Ashokan—alternating thumb and fingers in a fluid motion—creates a gentle, almost conversational tone. For guitarists, this piece serves as an excellent exercise in precision, timing, and dynamic control. The **ashokan farewell fingerstyle guitar tab**captures these elements, making it an ideal learning resource.

Understanding Fingerstyle Guitar

Fingerstyle guitar involves plucking individual strings with the thumb and fingers rather than using a pick. This approach allows for greater expression, as each string can be played independently, creating complex textures. Here are the basics you need to know before tackling the tab:

- Thumb (T): Typically plays the bass strings (E, A, D).
- Index (I): Plucks the G string.
- Middle (M): Plucks the B string.
- Ring (R): Plucks the high E string.
- Alternate thumb patterns (e.g., T T T) can add rhythmic drive.

How to Read the Ashokan Farewell Fingerstyle Guitar Tab

Before you start playing, let’s decode the notation. A typical guitar tab looks like this:

\ne|----------|\nB|----------|\nG|----------|\nD|----------|\nA|----------|\nE|----------|\n\n\nEach horizontal line represents a string, from the high E (top) to the low E (bottom). Numbers indicate the fret to hold

down, while a “0” means an open string. The symbol “–” indicates a rest or a silent string. For fingerpicking, you’ll often see letters (T, I, M, R) placed above the tab to denote which finger should pluck each note.

Example of a Fingerstyle Pattern

\ne|-------0-------|\nB|-----1---1-----|\nG|---2-------2---|\nD|-2-----------2-|\nA|---------------|\nE|---------------|\n T I M R\n\n\nIn this example, the thumb (T) plays the D string, the index (I) the G string, the middle (M) the B string, and the ring (R) the high E string. The pattern repeats, creating a flowing arpeggio.

Song Overview: “Farewell” by Ashokan

“Farewell” is structured around a simple yet emotionally powerful chord progression. The verses are mellow, the chorus lifts slightly in intensity, and the bridge offers a subtle shift in dynamics. Below is a breakdown of the key sections:

- Intro: A gentle arpeggio that sets the mood.
- Verse 1: Soft fingerpicking with a steady bass line.
- Pre Chorus: Slightly syncopated picking to build anticipation.
- Chorus: More rhythmic, emphasizing the song’s hopeful tone.
- Bridge: A brief melodic interlude that adds texture.
- Outro: Returns to the intro pattern, fading out.

Each section uses the same core fingerstyle pattern but with subtle variations in rhythm and dynamics. This consistency makes the tab easier to memorize while still offering expressive possibilities.

Step by Step Guide to the Tab

Below we provide a detailed walkthrough of each part of the song, focusing on the **ashokan farewell fingerstyle guitar tab**. Feel free to print this guide or keep it on your phone for quick reference.

Intro

\ne|------------------------|\nB|------------------------|\nG|-------2-------2--------|\nD|---2---0---2---0---2---2-|
\nA|-0----------------------|\nE|------------------------|\n T I M R\n\n\nStart by placing your thumb on the low A string (open). The index finger plucks the G string at the second fret, while the middle and ring fingers handle the B and high E strings respectively. Repeat this arpeggio slowly, focusing on a steady tempo and even volume.

Verse 1

\ne|------------------------|\nB|-----1-------1----------|\nG|---2---2---2---2--------|\nD|-2-----------0---2------|
\nA|------------------------|\nE|------------------------|\n T I M R\n\n\nThe verse introduces a subtle rhythmic shift. After the intro’s arpeggio, add a short pause on the A string before picking the G and B strings. Keep the thumb on the low D string to maintain a steady bass line. Practice this section slowly, then gradually increase speed until you can play it fluidly.

Pre Chorus

\ne|------------------------|\nB|-----1---1---1---1------|\nG|---2---2---2---2--------|\nD|-2-----------0---2------|
\nA|------------------------|\nE|------------------------|\n T I M R\n\n\nHere, the picking pattern becomes more syncopated. Alternate the thumb between the low D and A strings to create a subtle groove. The fingerpicking remains consistent, but the emphasis on the G and B strings changes the feel.

Chorus

\ne|------------------------|\nB|-----1---1---1---1------|\nG|---2---2---2---2--------|\nD|-2---0---0---0---2------|
\nA|------------------------|\nE|------------------------|\n T I M R\n\n\nThe chorus lifts the energy. The thumb now alternates between the low D and A strings, creating a rhythmic pulse that drives the section. Focus on keeping the volume balanced—don't let the higher strings overpower the bass notes.

Bridge

\ne|-------0-------0--------|\nB|-----1---1---1---1------|\nG|---2-------2-------2----|\nD|-2-----------2----------|
\nA|------------------------|\nE|------------------------|\n T I M R\n\n\nThe bridge offers a melodic variation. Use the thumb to play the low D string while the fingers pick the higher strings in a syncopated pattern. This section is an excellent opportunity to experiment with dynamics—soften the lower strings and bring out the higher ones for contrast.

Outro

The outro mirrors the intro, providing a satisfying conclusion. Finish the song by slowing down gradually, letting the last chord ring out.

Common Mistakes and How to Fix Them

When learning a fingerstyle piece, beginners often encounter the following pitfalls:

- Uneven Volume: The thumb's bass notes can be too loud. Practice with a metronome and focus on gentle, controlled plucks.
- Rhythm Inconsistency: Fingerpicking can feel rushed or too slow. Use a metronome to keep a steady tempo.
- Finger Placement: Incorrect finger placement can cause buzzing. Ensure your fingers press the strings cleanly and stay close to the fretboard.
- Ignoring Dynamics: Playing every note at the same volume makes the piece flat. Experiment with accents—play the G and B strings slightly louder during the chorus.

Fixing Uneven Volume

Place a small piece of paper between your thumb and the string to help you gauge how hard you're plucking. Gradually reduce the force until the sound is clear but not overpowering.

Mastering Rhythm

Start each section at a slower tempo. Once you can play it accurately, incrementally increase the speed by 5 10 beats per minute (BPM) until you reach the original tempo. This incremental approach prevents rushed playing.

Advanced Techniques to Elevate Your Performance

Once you're comfortable with the basic tab, consider adding these advanced touches to make your rendition truly stand out:

- Use of Harmonics: Lightly touch the string at the 12th fret to produce a bell like harmonic. Insert a harmonic at the end of the bridge for a subtle flourish.
- Dynamic Swells: Gradually increase volume during the chorus and soften it in the verses for emotional contrast.
- Alternate Picking: Occasionally switch to a light pick for a brighter tone, especially during the pre chorus.
- Chord Variations: Substitute the G major chord with a G6 or Gmaj7 to add color.

Practice Routine

Consistency is key to mastering any piece. Here's a sample weekly routine:

1. Day 1: Warm up with scales (C major arpeggios). Practice the intro at 60 BPM.
2. Day 2: Focus on the verse. Play each line slowly, then combine them.
3. Day 3: Work on the pre chorus. Emphasize syncopation.
4. Day 4: Chorus practice. Use a metronome at 90 BPM.
5. Day 5: Bridge and outro. Add dynamics.
6. Day 6: Full run through. Record yourself.
7. Day 7: Rest or light review.

Adjust the tempo as needed, and always focus on accuracy over speed.

Resources for Further Learning

Here are some tools and materials that can help you deepen your understanding of the **ashokan farewell fingerstyle guitar tab** and fingerstyle technique in general:

- Fender's Fingerstyle Guide – A comprehensive overview of techniques.
- Ultimate Guitar Tabs – Search for "Farewell" and compare different transcriptions.
- YouTube Tutorials – Visual demonstrations of each section.
- Justin Sandercoe's Fingerstyle Course – Structured lessons for all skill levels.

Conclusion

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