

Come Light the Menora

Traditional Arrangement Copyright © 2009 Accent On Music LLC and Mark D. Hanson. All Rights Reserved.

Sprightly and Dancelike

Trad.; Arr: Mark Hanson
From: www.AccentOnMusic.com

♩ = 140

Am Dm⁹/F Am Em⁹/F Am¹¹ Am

5 4 3 2 1

Am Dm/F Am Am E⁷ Am

5 4 3 2 1

Am Dm Am

5 4 3 2 1

Dm Am Dm Am G/B C E

5 4 3 2 1

Traditional Arrangement Copyright © 2009 Accent On Music LLC and Mark D. Hanson. All Rights Reserved.

From: www.AccentOnMusic.com

"Come Light the Menora" is a Hannukah song from the Jewish tradition. The lyrics relate to gathering together to have a party, lighting the menorah, playing with dreidls and eating latkes while the candles burn down, reminding the gathered of "days long ago." Play this as if it were a sprightly dance tune, even though it is in a minor key - so common in traditional Jewish music. I have tried to make this a straightforward fingerpicking arrangement, with interesting variations on repeated melodic phrases. For instance, notice that the Am chords in measures 2 and 4 occur on different beats at the end of the measures. In measure 7, I harmonize the melody at a third below, making it different from the first time you hear that phrase in measure 5. In measures 17-19, I incorporate an ascending bassline, which produces a Dm/B (also called a "B half diminished", and a "Bm7_b5"), an Am/C, a Dm6, and an Am/E.

Pay close attention to the timing markings. The first phrase in measure 1 is all eighth notes, but its repeat in measure 3 is different: quarter, two eighths, quarter, two eighths (1 - 2 & 3 - 4 &). In measures 11, 13 and 14, try to mute the ringing open fifth string (A) as you pluck the Dm chord on beat 3. This will make the Dm chord cleaner sounding, having the root note (D) as the lowest-sounding bass note. I do this by touching the fifth string with the side of my right-hand (picking hand) thumb as I pluck the fourth string. If you haven't done this before, lower your wrist a bit so that the side of your thumb lightly touches the fifth string as the tip/thumb nail of the thumb plucks the fourth string. This is harder if you wear a thumbpick! I let that open fifth string ring under the Dm9/F chords in the first line of the piece.

The arrangement is in standard tuning. It calls for you to pick with the thumb and three fingers in the right hand (or left, as the case may be!).

- Mark Hanson