

Stagger Lee

Fingerstyle Guitar Solo

Allegretto ♩ = 145

Traditional

The musical score for 'Stagger Lee' is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature, and a guitar tablature staff below it. The first system begins with a D chord diagram (xx0232) and contains four measures of music. The second system begins with a G chord diagram (320033) and contains four measures. The third system begins with a D chord diagram (xx0232), includes an A7 chord diagram (x02020) in the second measure, and ends with a D chord diagram (xx0232) in the fourth measure. The tablature includes various techniques such as triplets, slurs, and rests.

'Stagger Lee', otherwise known as Stagolee, Stackerlee, Stack-a-Lee, tells the story about the murder of William Lyons by Stagg "Lee" Sheldon on Christmas Eve 1923 in a St. Louis Saloon. It is believed that the song originated in the late nineteenth century and was handed down in the oral tradition till it was first published in 1910.

Since then it has been recorded by hundreds of artists including Elvis Presley, Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis, Nick Cave, The Grateful Dead and many more. The version recorded by Mississippi John Hurt in 1928 is regarded as a fingerstyle guitar classic that has inspired many guitarists to this very day.