

The Carolan Collection



Carolan's Concerto (Turlough O'Carolan)

Musical score for Mandolin in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of seven systems, each with a treble clef staff and a mandolin staff (labeled T and B). Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The mandolin staff contains fret numbers and some triplets.

System 1: Chords D, A, D, A, D, E, A, D. Fret numbers: 0 2 4, 5 5 5 5 4 2, 0 2 5 0 4 0, 2 0 0 0, 2 4 5 0 5 4 2 0, 5 5 2 3 5 2.

System 2: Chords A, D, G, D, Em, A, G, D. Fret numbers: 0 2 3 0 2 3 5 2, 3 5 7 3 2 5 2 5, 3 2 0 5 5 4 2 0, 2 5 2 5 3 2 2, 0 5 0 5 2 0 0.

System 3: Chords Em, D, A, D, A, D, G, D, A, D. Fret numbers: 5 2 5 2 0 2 0 5, 5 4 2 4 0 0 5, 4 5 0 4 2 4 5 2, 4 5 0 4 5 0 2 5, 0 5 2 0 5 4 5.

System 4: Chords D, A, D, A, G, D, A, D, A. Fret numbers: 0 2 4, 5 7 5 3 2 0, 5 5 4 5, 2 3 0 2 4 5, 0 4 2 0 5 2, 0 5 4 2 4 5 5 5 5.

System 5: Chords G, D, A, G, D, A, A. Fret numbers: 2 3 3 3 3 0 2 2 2 2, 0 5 4 2 4 5 5 5 5, 2 3 3 3 3 7 3 7 3, 5 2 5 2 0 5 4 2, 4 0 2 5 0 4 5 2.

System 6: Chords D, Em, D, G, A, D, A, G. Fret numbers: 0 0 4 0 0 4 0, 5 2 2 5 2 2 2, 4 0 5 4 2 0 5 4, 2 4 5 0 2 4 5 0, 0 5 2 0 5 4 5.

Turlough O'Carolan was born in 1670 in County Meath. At the age of 18 he contracted smallpox and became blind, after which he was apprenticed with a harper. At 21 he was given a horse and a guide, and began life as an itinerant harper. Although he isn't regarded as one of the great performers, recognition for his talent as a composer is universal, and many of his tunes are still played today, 300 years later. Carolan died in 1738.

