



“The Sound of Silence” on 17-Note Kalimba in C

This is the tablature showing you how to play the Paul Simon song “The Sound of Silence” as I do in my YouTube Video.

Click on the PLAY icon above to take you to the YouTube video.

The following pages contain the tablature for this song. The tablature starts with a melody-only version just to get you started. The first note of the video begins on Measure 16 with the intro / interlude instrumental backing riff.

Note: the five verses of “The Sound of Silence” all have slightly different rhythms and melodies. I AM thinking of specific melodies in this arrangement, but they are composite: a line from the first verse, then the next line from the next verse. This permits my arrangement to span the emotional range of the song, with only a few verses.

If you need help reading this tablature, there is help:

www.kalimbamagic.com/tablatore

My arrangement uses the glissando technique:

www.kalimbamagic.com/glissando

Good thumb nails help:

www.kalimbamagic.com/nails

More tablature-based music for the 17-Note Kalimba in C:

www.kalimbamagic.com/heart17

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Diagram of the 17-note Kalimba fretboard for measures 1 through 6. The fretboard is oriented vertically with measure numbers 1 to 6 on the right. The notes are labeled at the bottom: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E. Red vertical bars indicate fretted notes, and grey vertical bars indicate unfretted notes. Measure 1 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 2 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 3 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 4 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 5 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 6 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

Diagram of the 17-note Kalimba fretboard for measures 7 through 14. The fretboard is oriented vertically with measure numbers 7 to 14 on the right. The notes are labeled at the bottom: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E. Red vertical bars indicate fretted notes, and grey vertical bars indicate unfretted notes. Measure 7 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 8 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 9 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 10 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 11 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 12 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 13 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Measure 14 shows notes on frets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

Diagram of a 17-note kalimba fretboard for measures 14 through 20. The fretboard is oriented vertically with 17 strings. Red vertical bars indicate fret positions. Black dots represent fingerings. Measure 14 includes a white circle on the 14th string. Measure 15 includes a white circle on the 15th string. Measure 16 includes a white circle on the 16th string. Measure 17 includes a white circle on the 17th string. Measure 18 includes a white circle on the 18th string. Measure 19 includes a white circle on the 19th string. Measure 20 includes a white circle on the 20th string. The notes for each measure are: 14: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 15: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 16: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 17: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 18: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 19: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 20: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E.

Video Starts Here

Diagram of a 17-note kalimba fretboard for measures 20 through 26. The fretboard is oriented vertically with 17 strings. Red vertical bars indicate fret positions. Black dots represent fingerings. Measure 20 includes a white circle on the 20th string. Measure 21 includes a white circle on the 21st string. Measure 22 includes a white circle on the 22nd string. Measure 23 includes a white circle on the 23rd string. Measure 24 includes a white circle on the 24th string. Measure 25 includes a white circle on the 25th string. Measure 26 includes a white circle on the 26th string. The notes for each measure are: 20: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 21: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 22: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 23: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 24: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 25: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E; 26: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E.

0:19

0:27

4/4

2/4

4/4

0:39

26 27 28 29 30 31 32

D B G E C A F D C E G B D F A C E

Detailed description: This diagram shows the left hand of a 17-note Kalimba in C for measures 26 through 32. The instrument has 17 notes: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E. The notes are arranged in four rows: the top row has D, B, G, E; the second row has C, A, F, D; the third row has C, E, G, B; and the bottom row has D, F, A, C, E. The score is written in 4/4 time for measures 26 and 32, and 2/4 time for measures 27-31. Measure 26 starts with a 4/4 time signature and a 0:27 time marker. Measure 27 has a 4/4 time signature and a 0:39 time marker. Measure 28 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 29 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 30 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 31 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 32 has a 4/4 time signature. The notes are indicated by black dots on a grid. Some notes are grouped with parentheses. There are also some notes with dots above them, possibly indicating accents or staccato. The background of the grid is alternating red and grey vertical stripes.

32 330:44

34 35 36 37

D B G E C A F D C E G B D F A C E

Detailed description: This diagram shows the right hand of a 17-note Kalimba in C for measures 32 through 37. The instrument has 17 notes: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E. The notes are arranged in four rows: the top row has D, B, G, E; the second row has C, A, F, D; the third row has C, E, G, B; and the bottom row has D, F, A, C, E. The score is written in 4/4 time for measures 32 and 37, and 2/4 time for measures 33-36. Measure 32 starts with a 4/4 time signature and a 330:44 time marker. Measure 33 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 34 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 35 has a 2/4 time signature. Measure 36 has a 4/4 time signature. Measure 37 has a 4/4 time signature. The notes are indicated by black dots on a grid. Some notes are grouped with parentheses. There are also some notes with dots above them, possibly indicating accents or staccato. The background of the grid is alternating red and grey vertical stripes.

Diagram of a 17-note Kalimba fretboard for measures 37 through 43. The fretboard is oriented vertically with measure numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43 on the right side. The frets are labeled at the bottom with notes: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E. Red vertical bars indicate fretted notes, and black dots indicate unfretted notes. Some notes are marked with a dot above them. Brackets on the left side of the fretboard indicate specific fingerings for various notes.

Diagram of a 17-note Kalimba fretboard for measures 43 through 49. The fretboard is oriented vertically with measure numbers 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 on the right side. The frets are labeled at the bottom with notes: D, B, G, E, C, A, F, D, C, E, G, B, D, F, A, C, E. Red vertical bars indicate fretted notes, and black dots indicate unfretted notes. Some notes are marked with a dot above them. Brackets on the left side of the fretboard indicate specific fingerings for various notes. Time signatures 2/4 and 4/4 are indicated on the left side of the diagram.