

More Advanced Rhythms (cont.)

Section **G** of *Stairway to Heaven* is a very high energy part of the song that can be a bit tricky to learn at first. In order to quickly master this rhythm, below, it is broken down below into three steps.

Stairway to Heaven

Step 1: Without the accents, the rhythm is very straightforward. Play the strumming pattern at a slow tempo at first.

(Final: 4X only)

Step 2: Next, play the rhythm with the accents (>) as shown. To accent, simply strum the chord with more force. Notice that every third strum is accented. Count this as "1-2-3, 1-2-3, 1-2-3", making sure you accent on 1.

(Final: 4X only)

Step 3: Finally, you will mute the strums on "2 and 3". This will add a percussive sound that will emphasize the accent on "1" even more. To mute, simply release the pressure off the strings *without taking your fingers off the strings*.

(Final: 4X only)

Bars 49-50. In the last part of this section, you will play the F chord at the second half of beat 4. It is important to accent this chord aggressively. As an optional effect, you can make a muted strum right on beat 4. Otherwise, make this a rest.

(Final: 2X)

Bars 51-end. The song concludes by returning to the material played at **F**. You will play this 4 times. The last time, you will make a ritardando, then make one strum on the F chord. Here, the vocalist will sing acappella until the word, "Heaven", at which point you will gently strum an Am chord. *Optional: play the vocal melody, as written below.*