SCARBOROUGH FAIR   (Trad., arr. Michael Völkel)

Here´s an arrangement of the well-known english folksong Scarborough fair for acoustic fingerstyle guitar.

First of all the tune itself, later there will be some suggestions and liner notes.

The tune is meant to played very slowly. The guitar-player should know the

melody very well to give slight accents on the melody-notes. Otherwise they could seem a bit "hidden" in the arrangement. Especially when there are half-tone-tensions in the chords the melody should be clearly hearable.
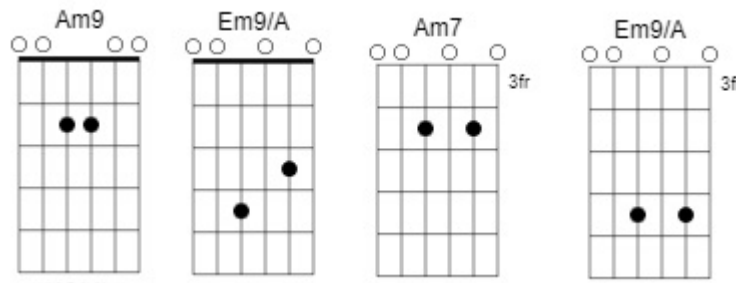
The beat switches between 6/8 and 3/4. It depends on the melody, when a lighter, fluid motion in 8th-notes fits better or a more straight rhythm in

quarters. The guitarplayer is free, to change these little details by his own taste.

This Version of the song is a basic – a suggestion to make that tune your own.

INTRO:

On my own recorded version I used these chords for the intro of scarborough fair. Live on stage they could be used as an interlude as well.

The player is free to switch ad. lib between these shapes. A straight classical picking in eights will do or a bossa-like pattern if there should be a mor rhythmical approach. It gets very interesting and bring lot of great musical tension, when the intro is played in odd time signature like 7/8 or 9/8.

IMPROVISATION:

The Song is in A-dorian, which means, it´s based on the tones of the G-major scale starting and ending at the second tone of the scale, the A. (That's the reason why there is one sharp in the score. I think, there's no better way, to write down a score in dorian mode. Maybe it´s a bit irritating since the Song is neither in G-Major nor E-minor, even if there is one sharp at the beginning of the line.) The dorian mode comes very strong at the D-Major-chord in measure 7 or in the chords I choose for the intro.

Suggestions: use the A-string as a kind of drone-note and improvise with the tones of the G-major scale. Use the chord-chapes of the intro to build a harmonical fundament and take the free fingers of the left hand to play melodic variations above.