

# Exploring Dynamics

*Forte (f), Piano (p) and palm muting for guitar.*

# You will learn to

- Understand the musical key word 'Dynamics'
- Interpret two dynamic markings (f) and (p)
- Use a guitar technique; 'palm muting' in your playing
- Apply this technique musically to add interest to your songs

# Dynamics

- *Simply, Dynamics is the musical word for 'volume'.*
- *How loudly or quietly we play in our music effects the way the music feels.*
- *So, choosing the correct volume to play any piece we learn is important!*

# Task 1

- Take your instrument and strum the strings as *quietly* as you can. Choose chords you know, or just strum the open strings!
- Slowly, begin to **increase the volume** of your playing until you are playing as loud as you can.
- Then start to play more *softly* until you are playing as *quietly* as you can again.
- How does playing loud feel different to playing quietly?

# Dynamic Markings

- In written music, dynamic markings tell you when to play loud or soft:
- *P* means 'piano' - soft ***p***
- *F* means 'forte' - loud ***f***



# Palm Muting

- On guitar the palm of our **right hand** is an important tool in controlling our **Dynamics**.
- The picture below shows how your hand would rest across the strings to **mute** them



**Mute** – to make the volume more **quiet**

# Palm Muting

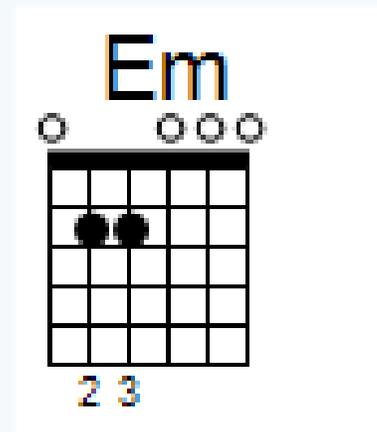
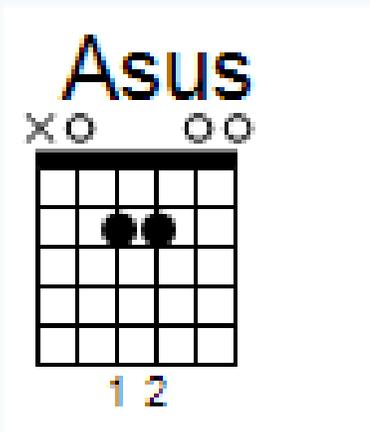


*You will need to experiment with your hand position to make sure the notes sound correct.*

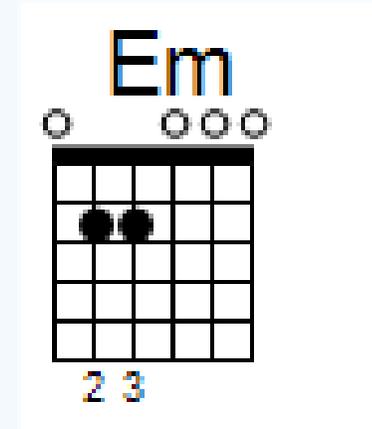
*How is this way of playing different to when we strummed quietly in task 1?*

## Task 2 – Dynamics with chords.

- Here we will use the chords Asus and Em to demonstrate dynamics.
- Practice changing between these chords before you move on to the next page.



# Task 2 – Dynamics with chords.



Palm mute (*p*) the chord in the first bar, and release your right palm to play louder (*f*) in bar 2.

How do these two chords feel different?

Where might you use them in a song?

Musical notation and guitar tablature for the chords. The notation is in 4/4 time. The first bar (labeled '1') features the Asus2 chord with a palm mute (*p*) indicated above the staff. The second bar (labeled '2') features the Em chord with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking above the staff. The tablature below shows the string patterns for each chord: Asus2 (0 0 2 2 0 0) and Em (0 0 2 2 0 0). A dashed line labeled 'P.M.' spans the first bar, and a yellow box highlights the final measure of the second bar.