

The Lion Sleeps Tonight

The Lion Sleeps Tonight, also known as “Wimba Way” or “Wimoweh” (and originally as “Mbube”), is a song written and recorded by Solomon Linda originally with the Evening Birds (Song by Solomon Linda originally titled just “Mbube”) for the South African Gallo Record Company in 1939. Originally composed only in IsiZulu, it was adapted and covered internationally by many 1950s pop and folk revival artists, including The Weavers, Jimmy Dorsey, Yma Sumac, Miriam Makeba, and The Kingston Trio. In 1961, it became a number one hit in the U.S. as adapted in English by the doo-wop group The Tokens. It went on to earn at least US \$15 million in royalties from covers and film licensing.



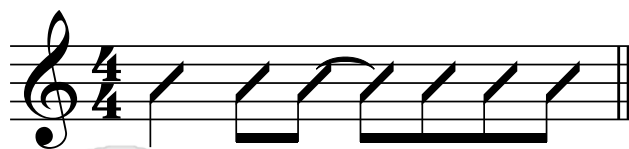
This is a three chord song. The 1, 4 and 5 chords of a major key. In the key of C major the chords are: C, F, and G7.



Each chord last for four counts or beats.

Sample Strumming Pattern

This is one of the four go to stunning patterns that all players should know.



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The count for this pattern is:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & + & 2 & + & 3 & + & 4 & + \\ = & & = & = & & = & = & = \end{array}$$

This is another of the core patterns that has the potential for being executed rhythmically correct but just not sound right. If this happens chances are you most likely strummed up on the 4 — a downbeat. The problem is you were on the wrong side of the strings for the end of 3, which should have been an up stroke, but was down stroke. This set you up for an up stroke on 4 which needed to be a down stroke.

Here is the problem using down and up vs. the recommended count.

DOWN UP DOWN UP UP DOWN UP

Notice there's two up strokes on a row. But you're on the wrong sides of the strings to perform the up. If you say the miss and perform the stroke and not actually strike the strings you'll be on the right sideline of the strings to perform the down on the 4. To fix this problem I've had students say the word miss and miss the string.

DOWN DOWN UP MISS UP DOWN UP

Replace saying the number three with the word "miss".

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & + & 2 & + & \text{MISS} & + & 4 & + \\ = & & = & = & & = & = & = \end{array}$$

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