

# 36 Strings

Barbara Dace, 2014

Key of D, Adagio, 60-65 bpm

G D G  
Once on a time, not long ago  
D  
I never would sing where any could know  
Bm G  
I'd croon all to myself, or hide in a crowd  
D  
Sheltered from harm  
A Bm  
Yet still my voice longed to ascend  
F#m A  
Til I found a case loaned from a friend  
Em  
Pushed back the lid  
G A  
Carefully, then, took in my arms...

D G  
Six pounds of wood, 36 strings,  
D  
a handful of felt—  
Bm  
How did the magic get into it? Now:  
G D  
Suddenly music flows from my hands  
A Bm  
How can it rise, this joyful sound?  
D G  
Hesitance lost—melody found  
D A  
In 6 pounds of wood, 36 strings  
D  
Held to my heart

G D G  
A few simple chords, rhythm and tone  
D  
A pattern to build a song of my own—  
Bm  
Playing all through the night  
G D  
Rapture unknown; passion inspired  
A Bm  
Now by this chance I found a choice  
F#m A  
And, turning from fear, my soul rejoiced  
Em G  
I'd never dreamed I'd find my voice...  
A  
And all it required

D G  
Was 6 pounds of wood, 36 strings,  
D  
a handful of felt--  
Bm  
How can such beauty come out of it? Now  
G D  
Joy and elation; fervor and fire  
A Bm  
What my heart hides, my hands reveal  
D G  
Caught in these slender strands of steel  
D A  
Six pounds of wood, 36 strings  
D  
Held to my heart

*(INSTRUMENTAL BRIDGE)*

G D G D  
Bm G D  
A Bm F#m A  
Em G A  
D G D G  
D G D G

G D G  
Some day will come: I'll pen my last lines,  
D  
My music will fail—an end to my rhymes  
Bm G  
All my songs offered up on the altar of time  
D  
Where all songs must end  
A Bm  
So, best I sing while I've the chance  
D G  
I may stand still—but my soul can dance  
D A  
On 36 strings; 36 strings...  
D  
.....Held to my heart

Note: while many autoharps are heavier, the Evoharp I'm writing about is more lightweight: the wood parts only weigh 5.8 pounds; adding all the other parts it's about 6.4 pounds. Feel free to tweak the lyrics to suit your 'harp: "8 pounds" works for most...but for the rhythm's sake, do avoid "seven". ;-) —BD