

The Riddle

Steve Vai
Passion & Warfare

Words & Music by Steve Vai

Standard tuning

♩ = 78

E-Gt7

The first system of music for 'The Riddle' consists of a treble clef staff in 4/4 time and a corresponding guitar tab staff. The treble staff begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo marking of quarter note = 78. The first measure contains a half note F#5 with a fermata. The second measure contains a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, and a quarter note B5, all beamed together. The third measure contains a half note C#6 with a fermata. The fourth measure contains a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, and a quarter note F#6, all beamed together. The fifth measure contains a quarter rest, and the sixth measure contains a quarter note G5. The guitar tab staff shows fret numbers: 11, 11, 12, 11, 9, 9, 5. There are two wavy lines above the staff, one above the first measure and one above the last measure. Dynamic markings include *fff* under the first measure and *f fff* under the last measure.

The second system of music continues the piece. The treble staff starts with a triplet of eighth notes: F#5, G5, A5. This is followed by a quarter note B5, a quarter note C#6, a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, and a quarter note F#6. The guitar tab staff shows fret numbers: 19, 7, 7, 7, 9, 11, 11, 11, 11, 9, 11, 9. Dynamic markings include *f* and *fff* under the eighth and ninth measures respectively.

The third system of music continues the piece. The treble staff starts with a quarter note F#5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, and a quarter note B5, all beamed together. This is followed by a quarter note C#6, a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, and a quarter note F#6, all beamed together. A triplet of eighth notes (G5, A5, B5) is shown below the staff. The guitar tab staff shows fret numbers: 7, 9, 7, 5, 7, 5, 4, 5, 7, 5, 4, 5, 4, 0, 0, 4, 2, 2, 2, 0. Dynamic markings include *f fff* under the eighth measure and *f fff* under the tenth measure.

The fourth system of music continues the piece. The treble staff starts with a quarter note F#5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, and a quarter note B5, all beamed together. This is followed by a quarter note C#6, a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, and a quarter note F#6, all beamed together. A triplet of eighth notes (G5, A5, B5) is shown below the staff. The guitar tab staff shows fret numbers: 11, 11, 11, 11, 12, 14, 14, (14), 14, 14, 12, 14, 12, 11, 12. There are two wavy lines above the staff, one above the first measure and one above the last measure. Dynamic markings include *f* and *fff* under the eighth and ninth measures respectively.

6

A.H.

full

TAB

14 13 11 9 9 9 9 8 6 8 4 2 4

7

f fff *f fff* *f fff*

full

TAB

2 4 4 4 6 2 4 4 2 2 (2) 4 7 0 2 4 0 2

9

f fff *f fff* *f fff*

A.H. A.H. A.H.

2 1 1/2 1 1/2 3

TAB

12 9 11 13 13 11 9 (9) 9 11 9 9 8

11

f fff *f fff* *f*

A.H. A.H.

2 1/2 2 1/2 1 1/2 1 1/2

TAB

8 8 6 8 6 4 6 4 6 6 4 6 8 7 11 11 9 (9)

13

fff

TAB: 11-14-11-14-11-14-11-14-11-14-11-14-11-14-11-13-14-12

14

f fff

full

TAB: (0)(0)-12-9-11-11-11-8-9-9-9-6-(6)-4

15

TAB: 11-11-12-12-14-14-15-15-17-17-15-15-17-17-19-19

16

full full

TAB: 19-19-19-19-23-19-19-24-24

17

f fff

TAB: 11-13-13-13-16-13-15-13-15-15-17-15-X-16

18

A.H. A.H. A.H. A.H.

T
A
B

19

Artificial Harmonic (slow dive)

A.H. A.H. A.H. A.H. A.H. A.H.

f fff *f* *fff*

T
A
B

21

f fff

T T T T T T T

T
A
B

22

f $\frac{1}{2}$

T T T T T T T T T T

T
A
B

23

fff

T

14-11-9 11 14-11-9 14-11-9 11-9-11-11 19-13-11-9 13-11-9 14-11-9 13-11-9 8 13 13 9 8

T A B

24

full

full

11-14-20-16-11-18-11-14-20-14-11-21-11-14-16-20 11-14-21

8 21 21 0

T A B

25

f

fff

A.H.

fff

A.H.

full

0 4-4-11 14 7-0 2 4-2 4-2 4

T A B

27

pick scrapes

f

fff

A.H.

fff

f

full

2 4 2 4 4 2 4 4 0 0 2 4 6 X X

T A B

29

fff *f* *fff* *f*

pick scrape

TAB

X	6	6	8	8	8	8	9	8	6	9	9	6	6	(6)	(6)
4	4	6	6	6	6	7	6	6	4	7	7	4	4	(4)	(4)

31

fff

3

3

3

TAB

4	2	0	2	4	11	8	9	11	18	18

32

/w bar

3

6

6

TAB

18	16	20	17	20	17	19	17	19	17	19	17	15	17	15	17	17	14

33

f *fff*

clean sound

TAB

11	11	11	13	11	13	11	9	11	6	4	4	6	4
(14)	9	9	9	11	9	9	9	11	9				

35

f fff f fff f

T	(4) 4	4	4	7	7	6	2	1	4	6	6	8	4	4	6
A	(4)	4	4						2	4	4	6	2	2	4
B															

37

fff

T	19	19	18	16	20	11	11	9	9	9	8	9	9	8	9
A					18	11	11	9	9	9	11	9	9	11	9
B						13	13	9	9	9					

38

f fff f fff

T	(9)	15	13	13	13	11	11	9	7	11	11				
A	(9)	13	11	11	11	9	9	9	7	9	9				
B		11	9	9	9	9	9	9	7	7	7				

39

f fff

T	11	9	9	16	15	15	9	9
A	9	9	9	16	15	15	9	9
B	7	11	11	14	13	13	9	9

40

spoken: breath in my ear

f fff f

T	12	12	12	0	0	0	4	4	4	6
A	9	11	11	8	8	8	4	4	4	6
B				6	6	6	2	2	2	4

42

fff f fff f fff f fff

T	8	6	6	8	8	13	(13)	11	13	9	9	11	11	11	13	13	15	
A	0	6	4	4	6	6	11	(11)	9	11	7	7	9	9	9	11	11	13
B	0											0						

44

f fff f fff /w distortion f fff f fff

T	0	15	16	13	13	15	15	16	18	20	18	20	19	18	20		
A	0	7	0	13	14	11	13	13	14	16	18	16	16	16	18		
B	0	0	0	0													

46

f fff f fff f fff f fff f

T	16	16	18	20	18	20	19	20	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
A	14	14	16	18	16	18	16	18	18	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
B																	

49

fff f fff A.H. A.H.

T	9	9	10	9	7	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
A																	
B																	

51

T	12	14	14	14	12	14	12	14	7	5							
A																	
B																	

52

A.H.

f fff f

full

full

T
A
B

5-7 7-5-7 5-7 7-5 (5)-5 7-5

57

clean sound /w delay

fff f fff f fff f fff

T
A
B

12-11-9 9-11-9 8-11 12-11-9 9-11-9

60

f fff f fff f

T
A
B

8-9-11 8-11 12-11-9 9-11 8-11 8-11

63

fff f fff

T
A
B

12-11-9 9-11 12-11 12-11-13

67

backwards guitar

forwards guitar

/w bar

f fff

1 1/2

full

T
A
B

14-17 16-19 17 13 17-0 14

73 /w wah-wah and dist.

f fff f fff f fff

full full full 1½ 1½

TAB 15 14 15 14 12 14 12 (12) 12 10 14 17 17 15

76

f fff f fff f

full full full full 1½

TAB 17 15 16 17 15 12 12 16 14 14 14 12 14 (14) 17 17 17 15 17 17 15 17

79

fff f fff f fff

1½ 1¼ 1½ 2½

TAB 19 19 19 19 0 0

81

full

TAB 15 12 15 14 14 19 14 16 15 15 19 19 15

82

f *fff*

TAB (15) 15 16 14 15 14 16 15 13 14 12 14 16 11

83

f *fff*

TAB (11) 16 13-15-16 14 15 14 16 16-15-13 15 16 14-16 14 15 17-14 15 14 14 16 16 15 13-16 16 14 15 17-14 15

84

f *fff*

TAB 14 16 14 16-15-13 13-11-11 9-7-9-7-7 9 6 9 8 6 7 5 9 9

85

f *fff* *f* *fff* *f* *fff* *f* *fff*

TAB (9) 7 9 7 10 8 9 9 11 9 12 11 (11)

86

TAB 13 11 14 13 15 13 16 15 15 17 15 18 17 17 17 19 17

87

full full full full full full full

TAB 19 17 17 15 15 13 13 11 10 9 | 9 7 7 5 5 7 <5> <5> <7> 5

89

f fff

TAB 17 16 16 17 16 17 | 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 (16) 17

90

A.H. f fff

TAB 16 17 12 11 12 11 12 11 12 11 11 12 11 12 11 8

91

TAB 12 11 13 11 12 14 14 16 14 16 16 16 11

92

f

TAB 14 14 14 16 14 12 14 17 14 14 14 11 10 (10)

93

fff

TAB

12- 12- 12- 12- 12- 12- 12- 12- 10- 10- 12- 12- 12- 12- 14- 14- 14- 14- 15- 15- 14- 14- 12- 12- 14- 14- 14- 14- 14- 14- 14- 14-

94

TAB

17- 17- 14- 14- 14- 14- 19- 19- 14- 14- 14- 14- 21- 21- 14- 14- 14- 14- 22- 22- 22- 22- 14- 14- 23- 23- 23- 23- 23- 23- 23- 23-

95

TAB

23 ^{full} 23- 19- 19- 17- 19- 19- 17- 16- 16- 14- 16- 16- 14- 13- 14- 13- 14- 12- 11- 9- 6

97

f

TAB

(6)

106

fff

TAB

5 7 7 11 ^{full}
5 4 5 5 6 5 8 6 5 10 10 9

110

T
A
B

		3							
11	13	3	6	3	5	6	7	7	14

116

T
A
B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--