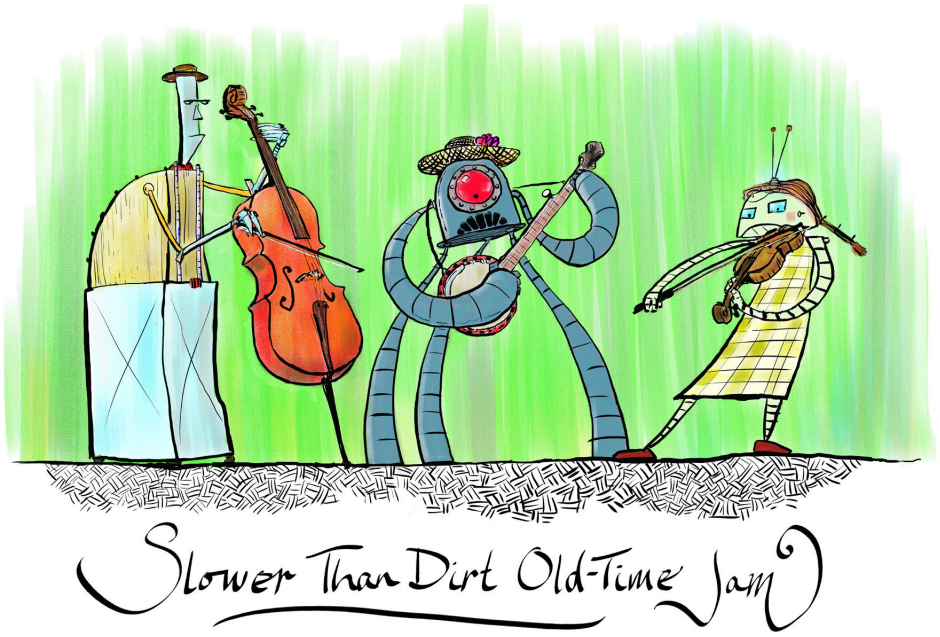


Slower Than Dirt Tunebook

This tunebook contains tunes commonly played at the Slower Than Dirt old-time jam in Seattle, where "commonly" means "played more than twice since I've been keeping records". It is almost certainly missing a few commonly-played tunes which haven't been transcribed yet. For the full logs of what's been played, see `http://slowerthandirt.org/tune-list/`

I am trying to make fresh transcriptions of all these tunes, but in some cases I have cribbed from a previously-published book. Usually I will have made some minor changes to those tunes to reflect more closely how they're played at the jam, and I have included attribution notes for tunes I didn't transcribe by ear. My intent is to eventually replace any transcriptions borrowed from books with transcriptions entirely my own. This is a work in progress.

These transcriptions are mostly stripped-down versions suitable for learning the basic tune, not exact transcriptions of any particular performance. As such, they should definitely not be used as a canonical source of how any tune "should" sound. Add your own variations, search out YouTube videos and recordings, and learn from other players in your area how they play it. The goal of this tunebook is to be descriptive, not prescriptive.

Tools used in the preparation of this tunebook include abcm2ps, EasyABC and LaTeX. The idea came from Paul Hardy's tunebooks at `http://www.pghardy.net/concertina/tunebooks/`. There is a GitHub repository of files which should (with some modification) be sufficient for you to create your own set of tunebooks at `https://github.com/rjl20/abc-tunebook`

The current version of this tunebook as well as other collections I've prepared, in both ABC and PDF formats, is available at `http://slowerthandirt.org/tunebooks/` – check the version in the page footers against the version listed on the site before downloading a new copy.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.
To view a copy of this license, visit `http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/`

Commonly-played tunes missing from this tunebook:

- Boatman
- Shady Grove

If you are the composer of a tune reproduced here without your permission, please contact us at info@slowerthandirt.org so that we can provide proper attribution or remove the tune.

Tunes By Key

Key of A

Grey Eagle 5

Key of A dor

Cluck Old Hen 4

Key of A mix

Old Joe Clark 10
Red Haired Boy 11
Sandy Boys 12

Key of C

I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets 7
∗ Wildwood Flower 7

Key of D

Angeline the Baker 1
Arkansas Traveler 1
Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine 3
∗ Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss 13
John Lover's Gone 8
Johnny Don't Get Drunk 8
Liberty 9
Needle Case 9
Over the Waterfall 10
Soldier's Joy 12
St. Anne's Reel 13
∗ Suzanna Gal 13
Western Country 13
Whiskey Before Breakfast 14
Wind That Shakes The Barley, The 14

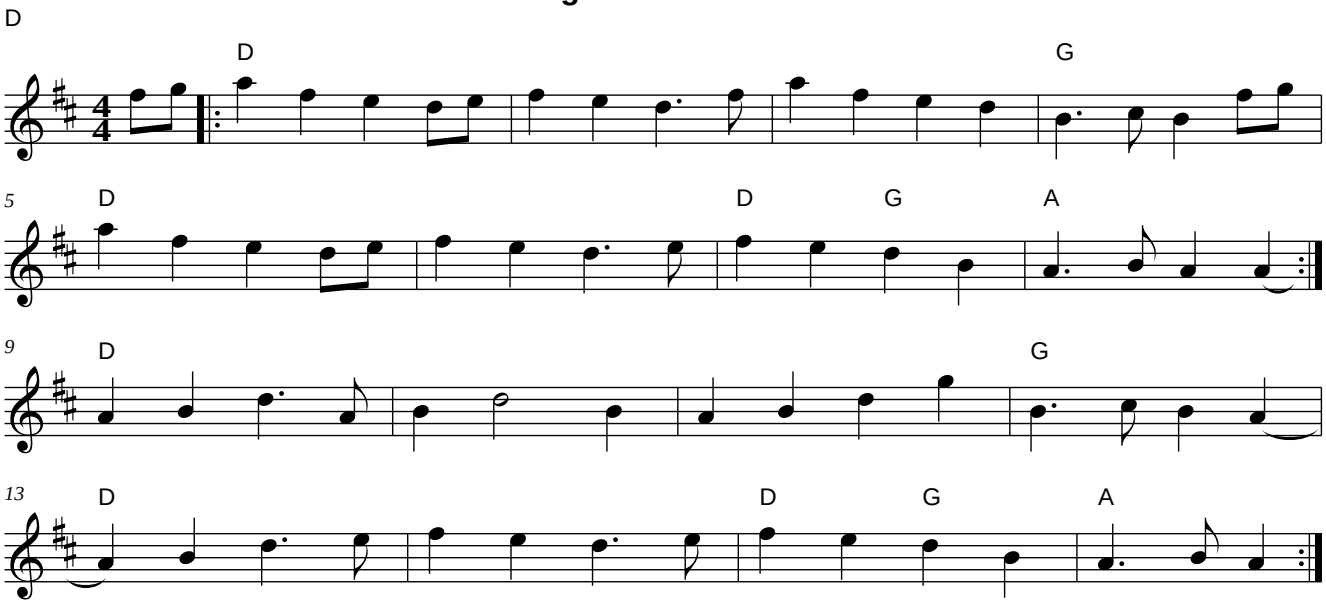
Key of G

Barlow Knife 2
Big Sciota 2
Blackberry Blossom 3
Boogerman 4
Girl I Left Behind Me, The 5
Ida Red 6
Red Wing 11

Tunes By Title

Angeline the Baker (D) 1
Arkansas Traveler (D) 1
Barlow Knife (G) 2
Big Sciota (G) 2
Blackberry Blossom (G) 3
Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine (D) 3
Boogerman (G) 4
Cluck Old Hen (A dor) 4
∗ Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss (D) 13
Girl I Left Behind Me, The (G) 5
Grey Eagle (A) 5
Ida Red (G) 6
I'll Twine 'Mid The Ringlets (C) 7
John Lover's Gone (D) 8
Johnny Don't Get Drunk (D) 8
Liberty (D) 9
Needle Case (D) 9
Old Joe Clark (A mix) 10
Over the Waterfall (D) 10
Red Haired Boy (A mix) 11
Red Wing (G) 11
Sandy Boys (A mix) 12
Soldier's Joy (D) 12
St. Anne's Reel (D) 13
∗ Suzanna Gal (D) 13
Western Country (D) 13
Whiskey Before Breakfast (D) 14
∗ Wildwood Flower (C) 7
Wind That Shakes The Barley, The (D) 14

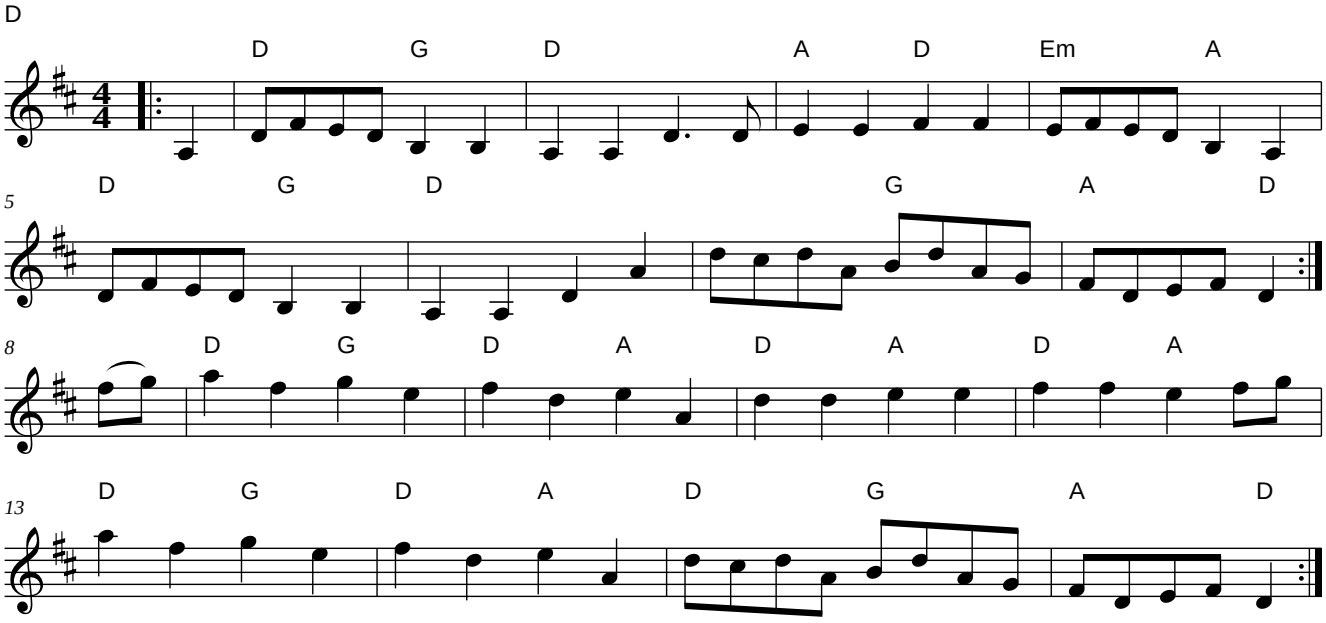
Angeline the Baker



Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.5

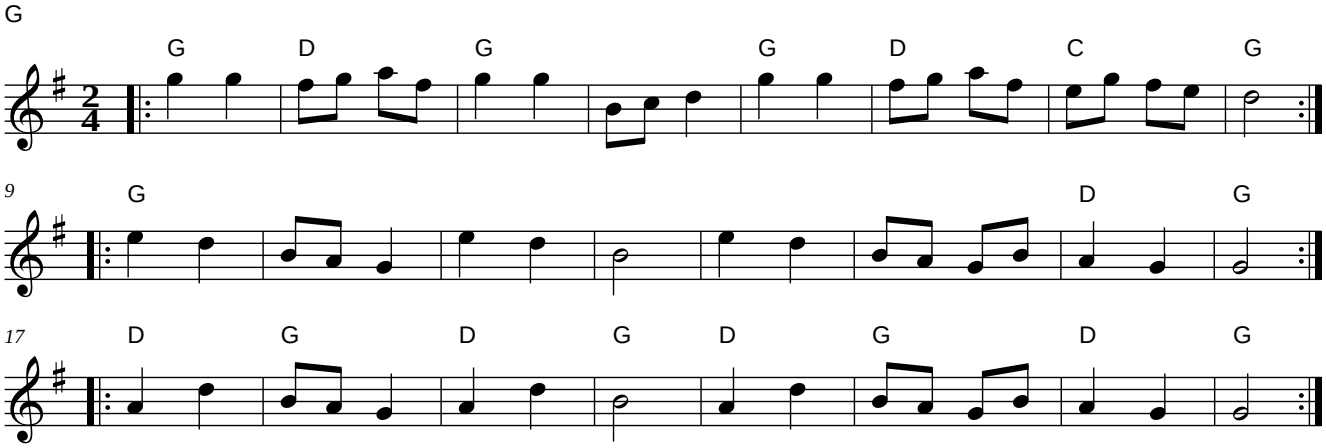
More than half the people I encounter play this tune in the reverse order of the two parts shown. The tune derives from Steven Foster's "Angelina Baker." My reading of the original is that this order is closest to the original, for what that's worth. Also, I like the V chord at the end of each part as shown, but this is for you to decide yourself. -- G.S.

Arkansas Traveler



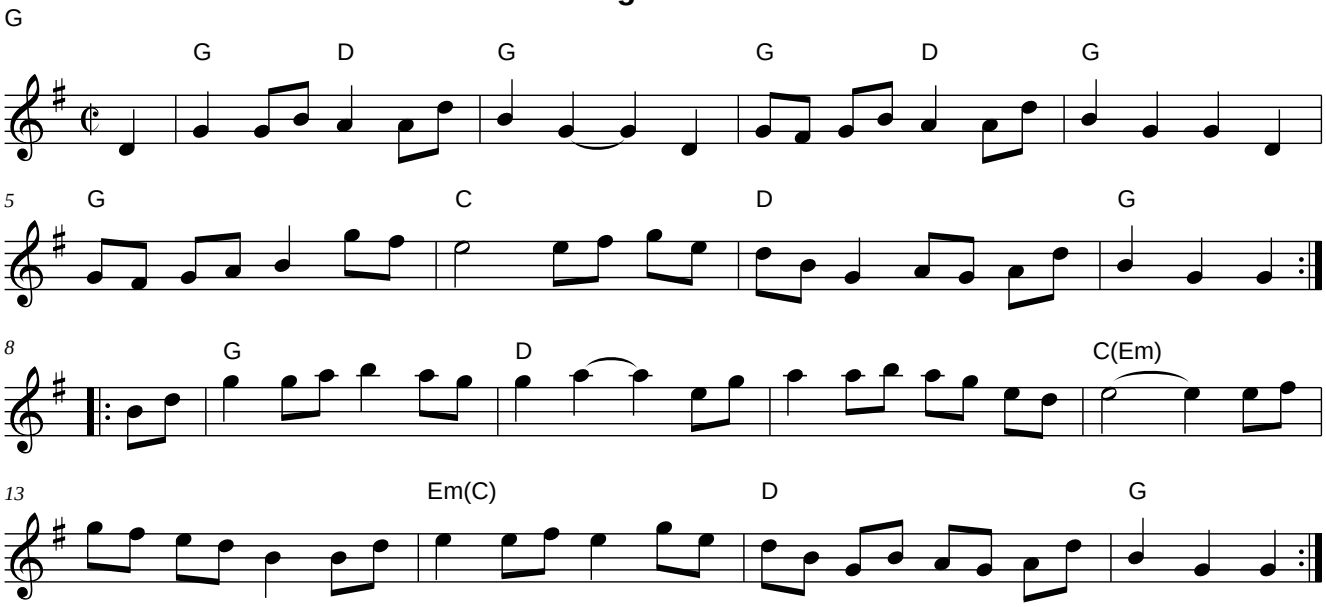
Aural Source: Sarah Comer

Barlow Knife



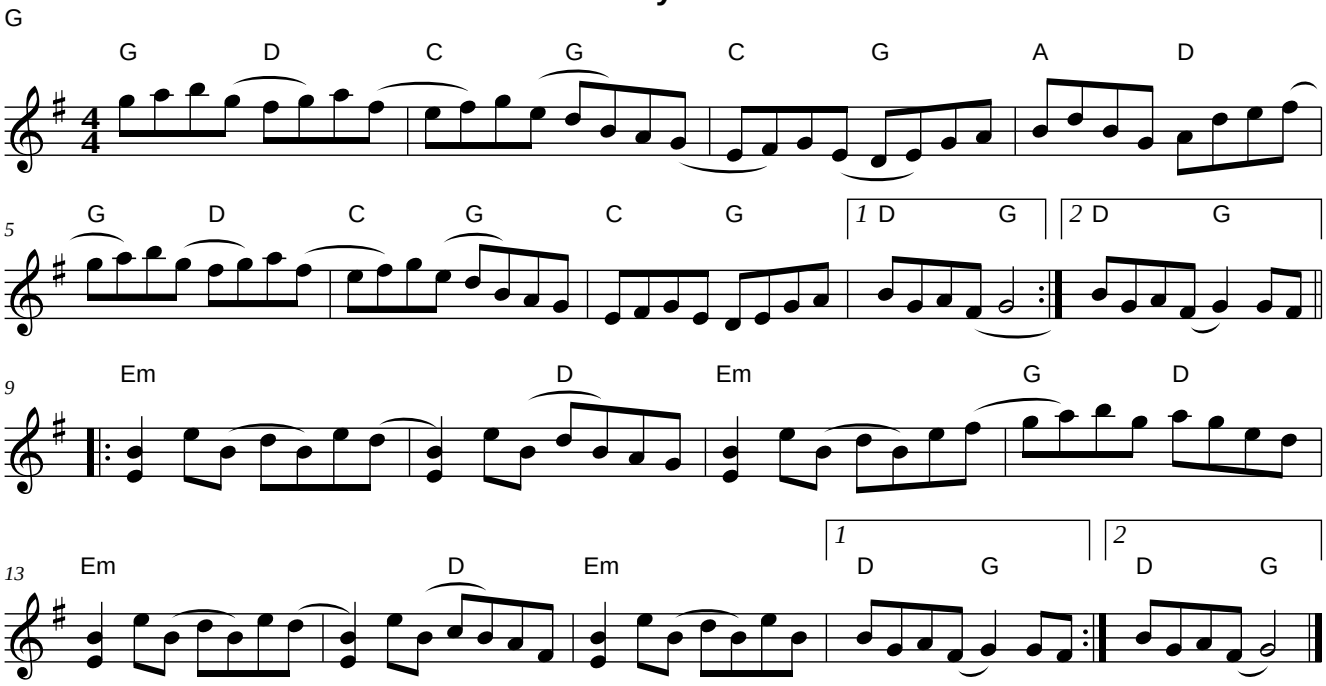
Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.25
Chords from Complete Tractor

Big Sciota



Written Source: http://archive.mandolinsessions.com/feb06/tune.pdf
Named after the Scioto River in Ohio. Also spelled Sciota, Sciote, Scioty.
The article contains Wendy Anthony's simplified version plus variations.

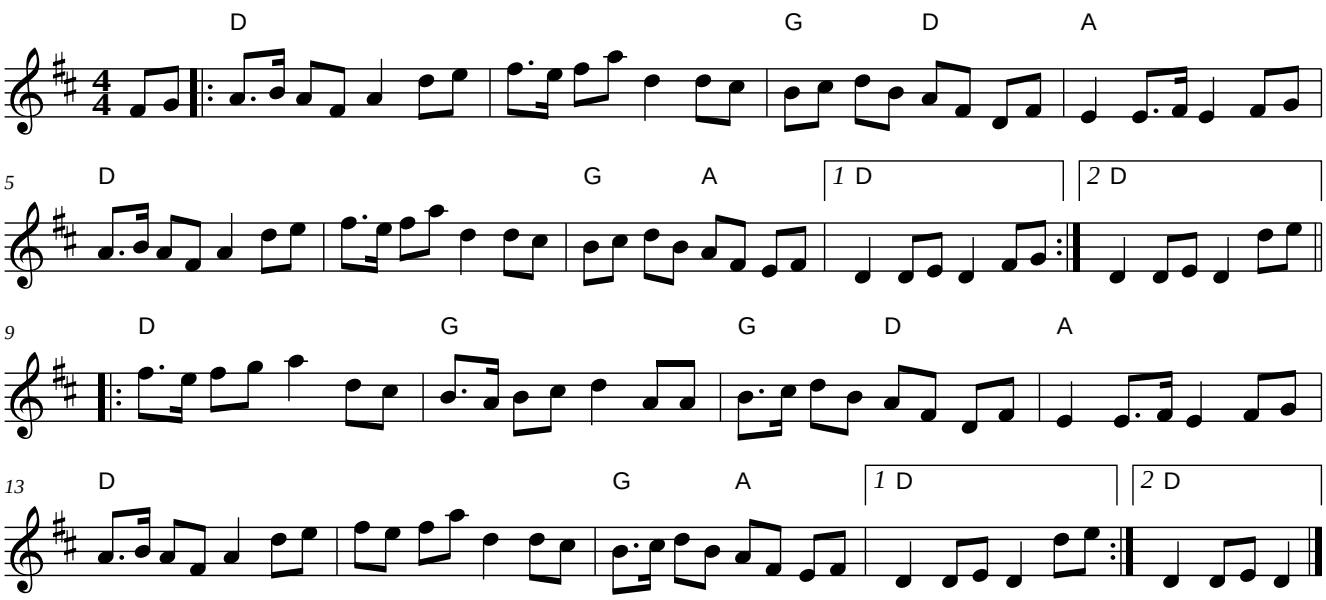
Blackberry Blossom



Written Source: The Fiddler's Fakebook, p.47

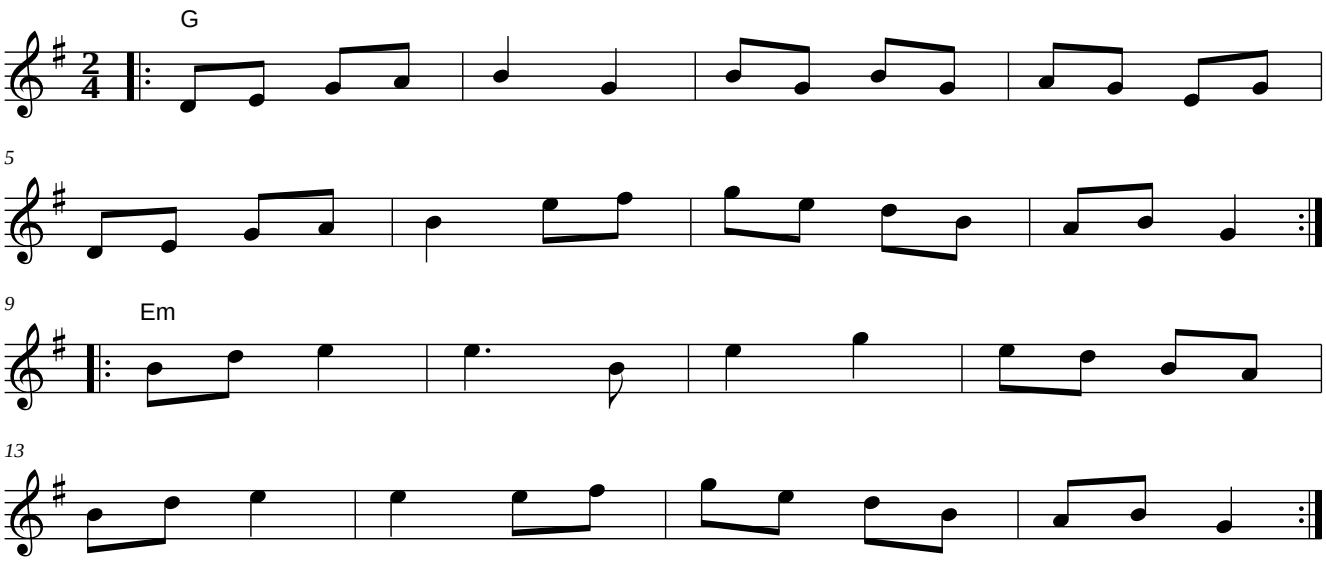
March

Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine



Boogerman

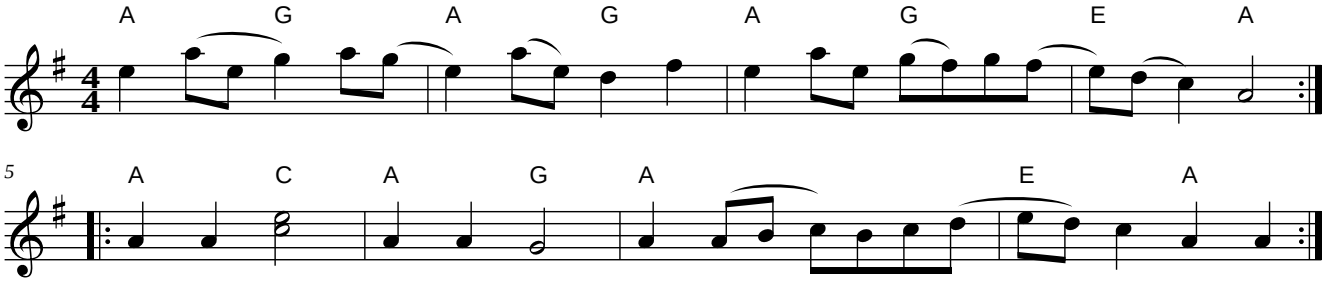
G



Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.30

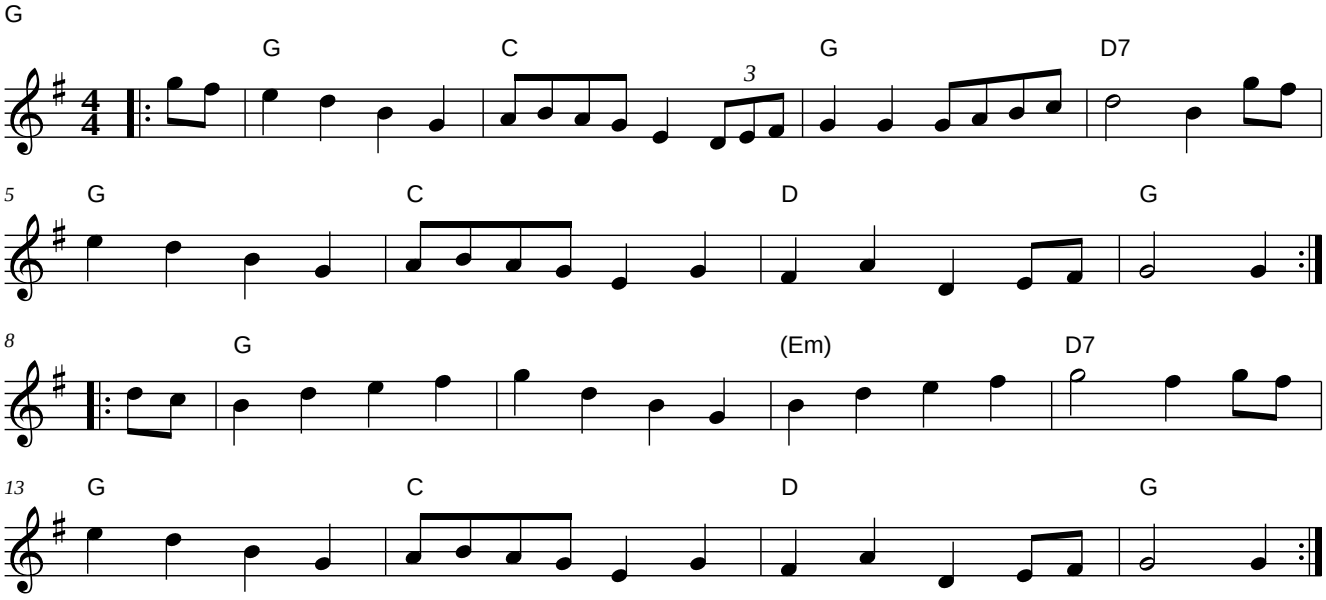
Cluck Old Hen

A dor



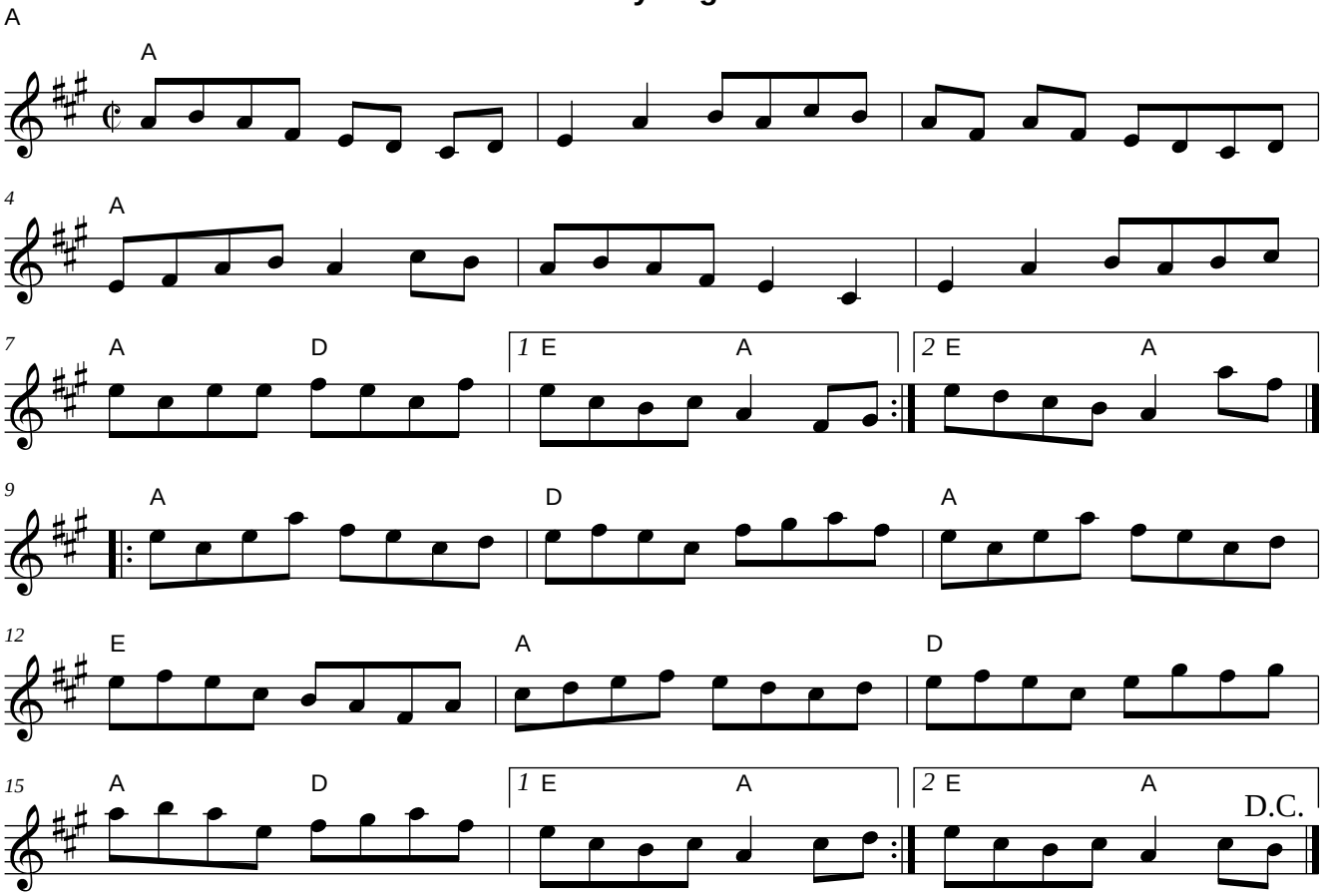
Written Source: Fiddler's Fakebook, p.70

The Girl I Left Behind Me



I like the Em, but that's probably more of a contra-ish thing than old-time.

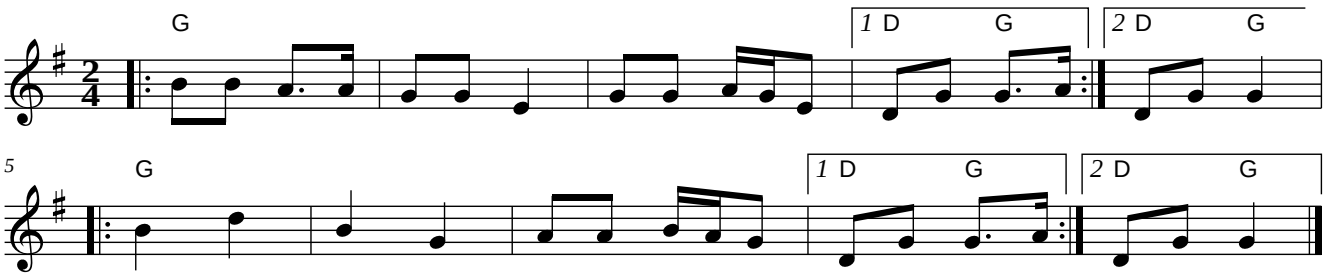
Grey Eagle



Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.73
Chords from Brody -- find better fit?

Ida Red

G



Written Source: Appalachian Fiddle, p.16

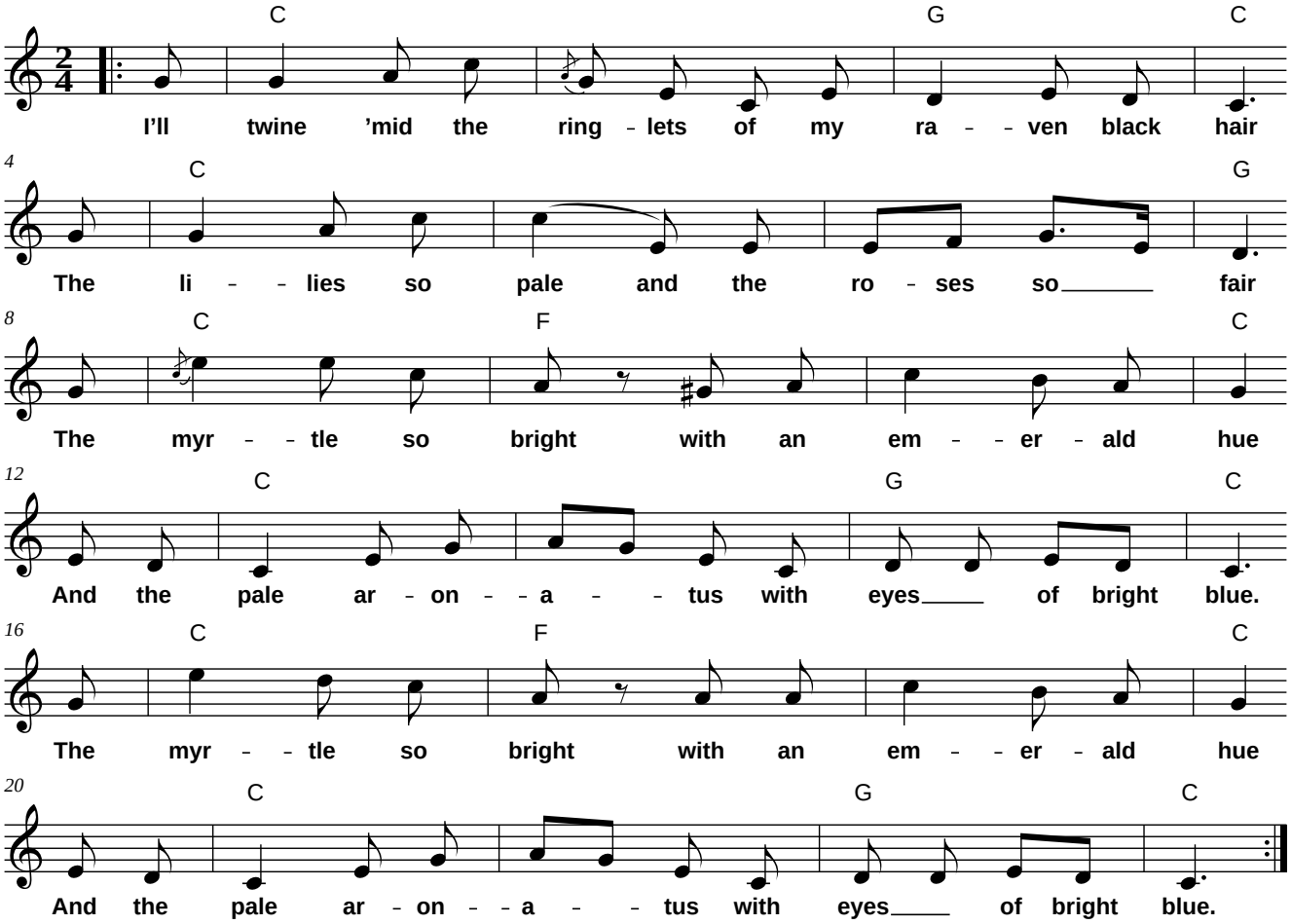
I’ll Twine ’Mid The Ringlets

C

Wildwood Flower

Music by J.P. Webster

Words by Maud Irving



I’ll sing and I’ll dance, my laugh shall be gay
I’ll cease this wild weeping, drive sorrow away.
Tho’ my heart is now breaking, he never shall know
That his name made me tremble and my pale cheeks to glow.

I’ll think of him never, I’ll be wildly gay
I’ll charm ev’ry heart, and the crowd I will sway.
I’ll live yet to see him regret the dark hour
When he won, then neglected, the frail wildwood flower.

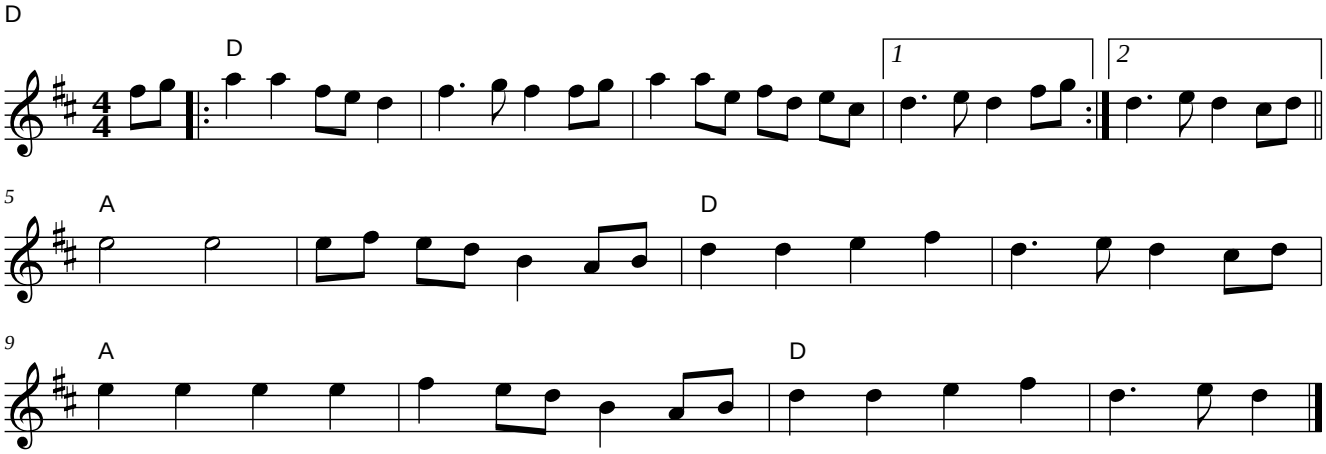
He told me he loved me, and promised to love
Through ill and misfortune, all others above
Another has won him, ah! mis’ry to tell
He left me in silence, no word of farewell.

He taught me to love him, he call’d me his flower
That blossom’d for him all the brighter each hour
But I woke from my dreaming, my idol was clay
My visions of love have all faded away.

Written Source: (Music) Joseph Webster manuscript circa 1863, University of Wisconsin Digital Collections
(Lyrics) Wikipedia

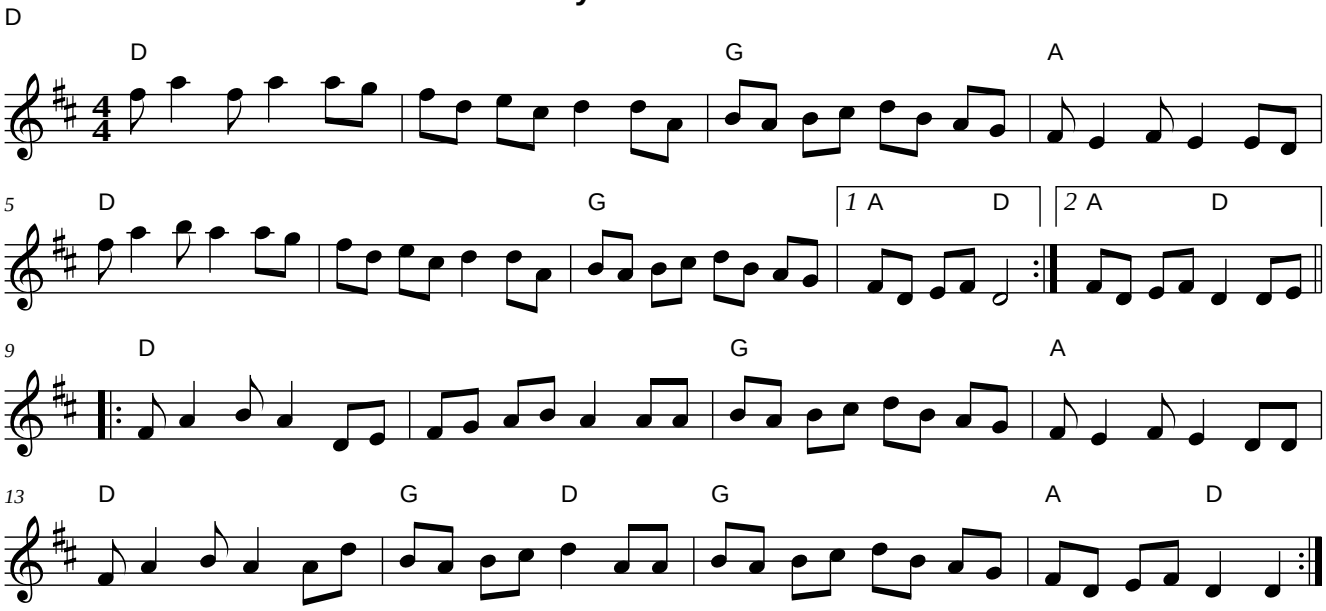
I’m including this version because it’s demonstrably in the public domain,
unlike the Carter Family’s "Wildwood Flower".

John Lover’s Gone



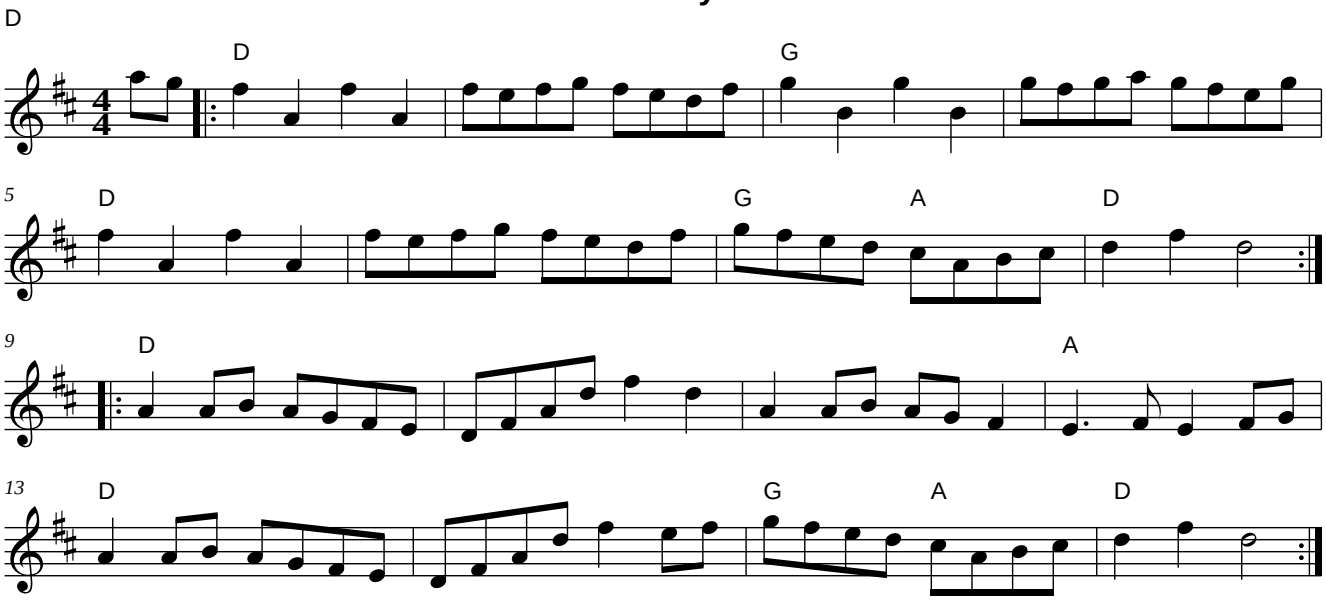
Written Source: Mainly from Levenson’s Festival Tunes, p.116

Johnny Don’t Get Drunk



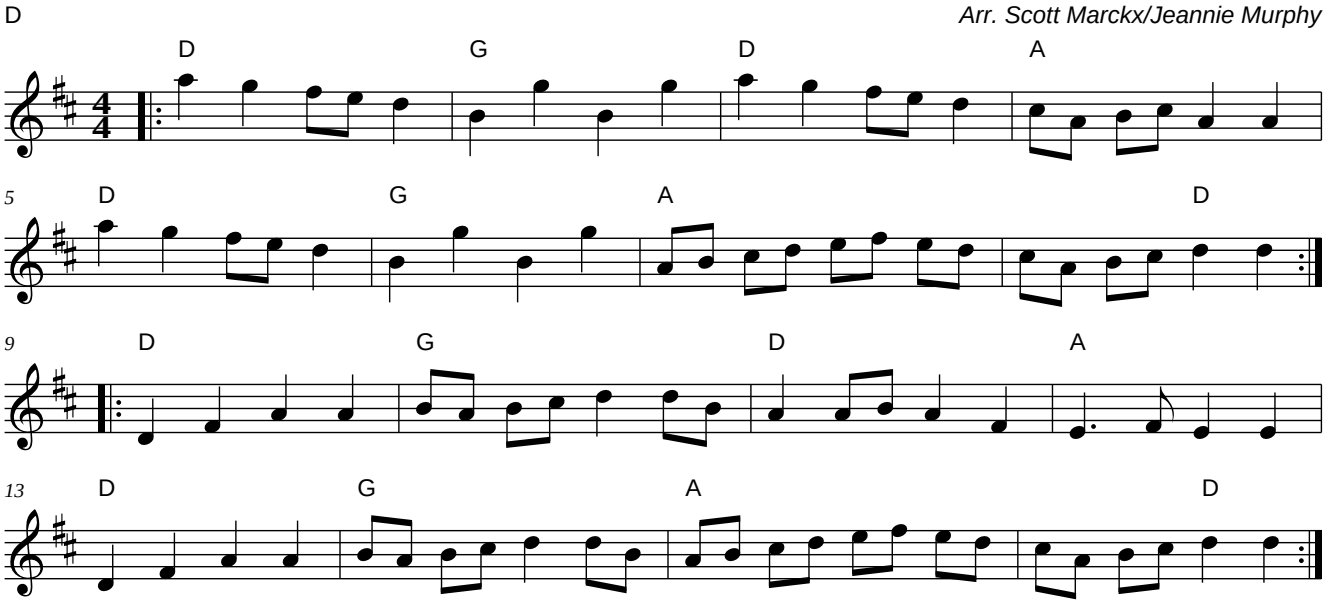
Aural Source: A combination of YouTube and someone who brought it to Slower Than Dirt.

Liberty



Aural Source: Dusty Strings jam?

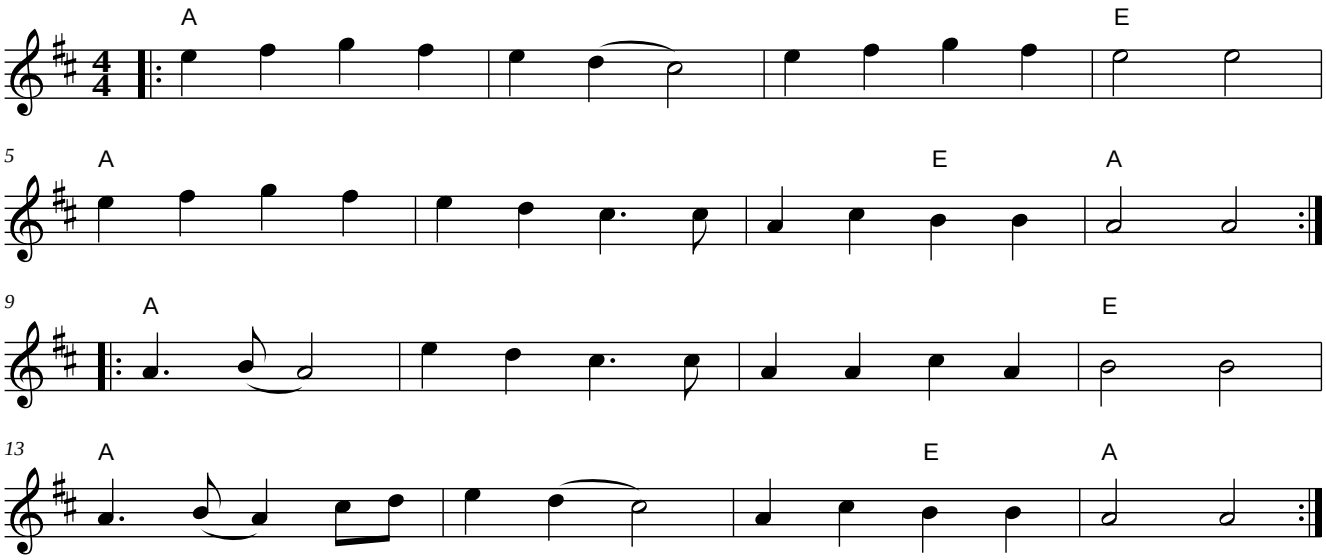
Needle Case



Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.132

Old Joe Clark

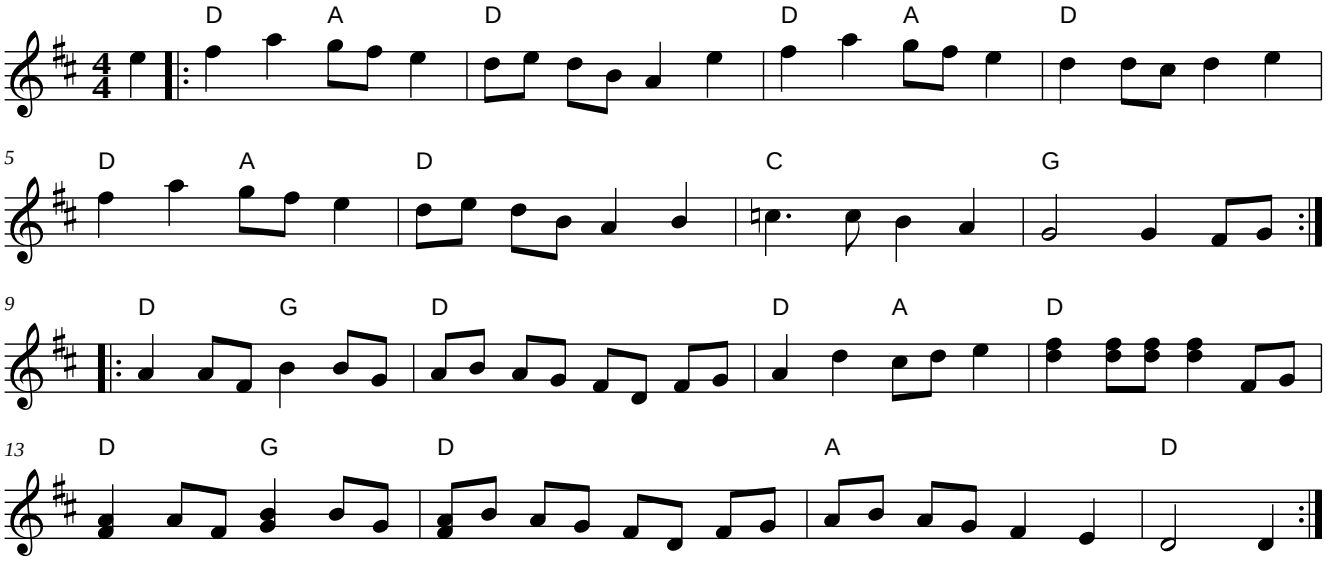
A mix



Aural Source: Sarah Comer

Over the Waterfall

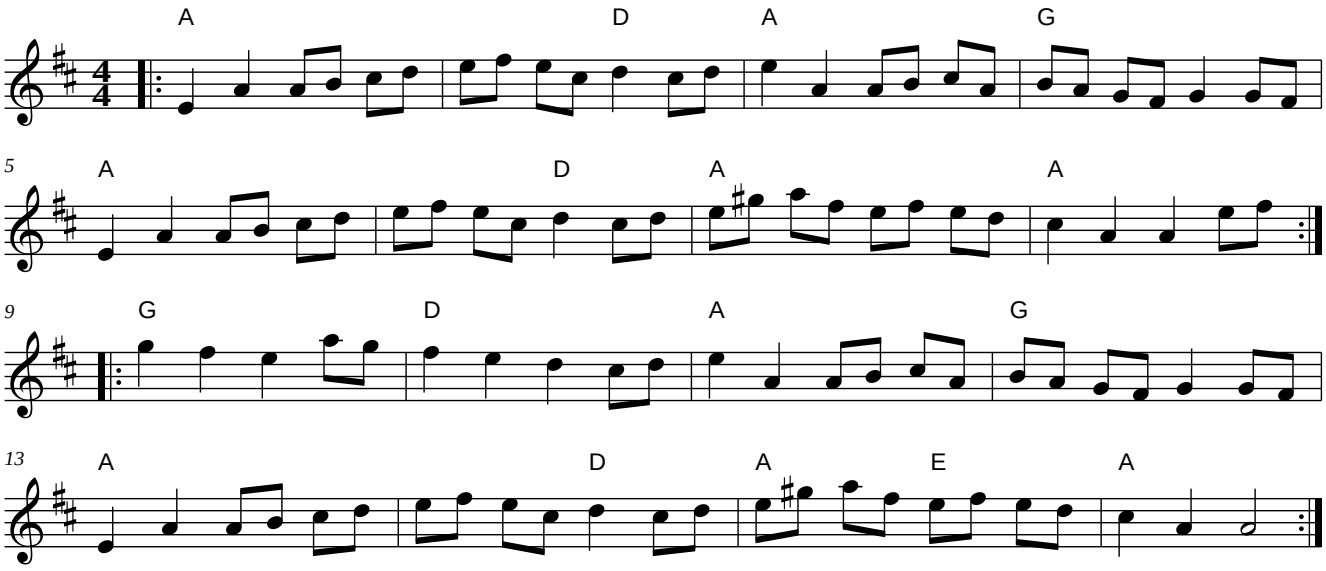
D



Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.142

Red Haired Boy

A mix

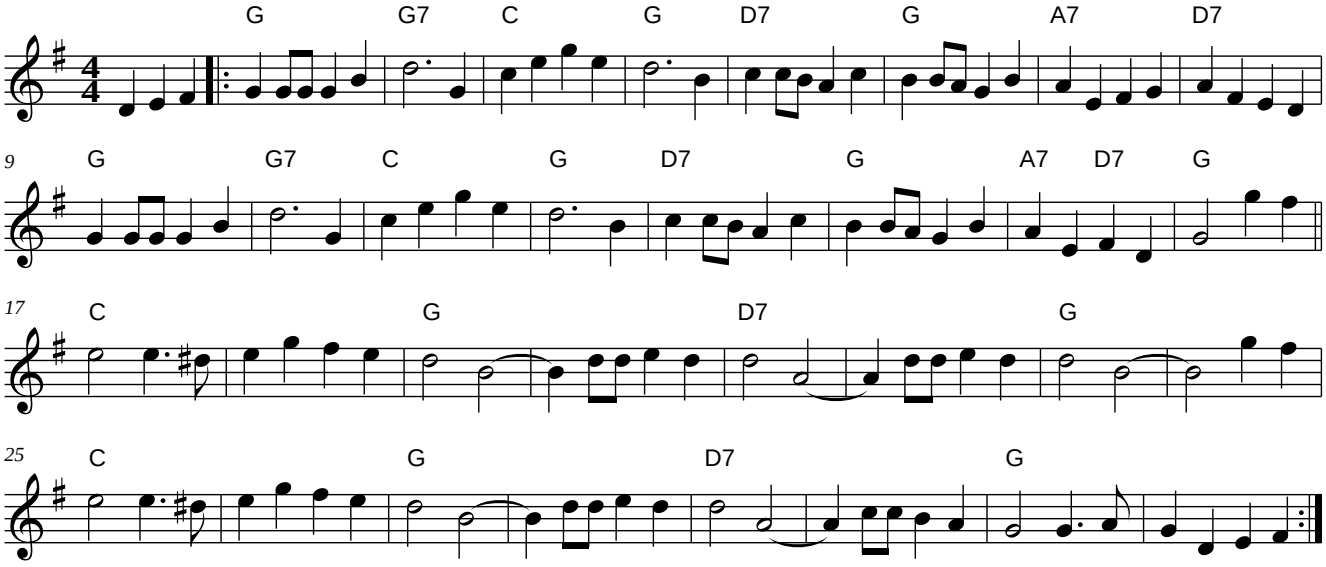


Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.156

Red Wing

G

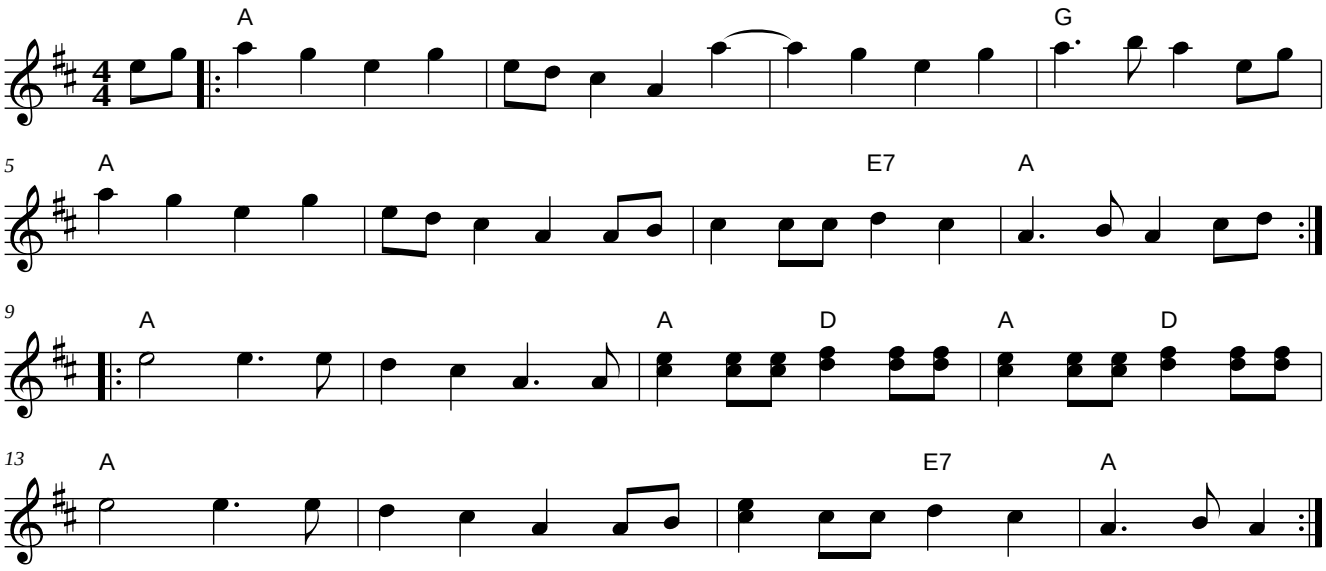
By Kerry Mills, 1907; arr. Gene Silberberg



Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.157

Sandy Boys

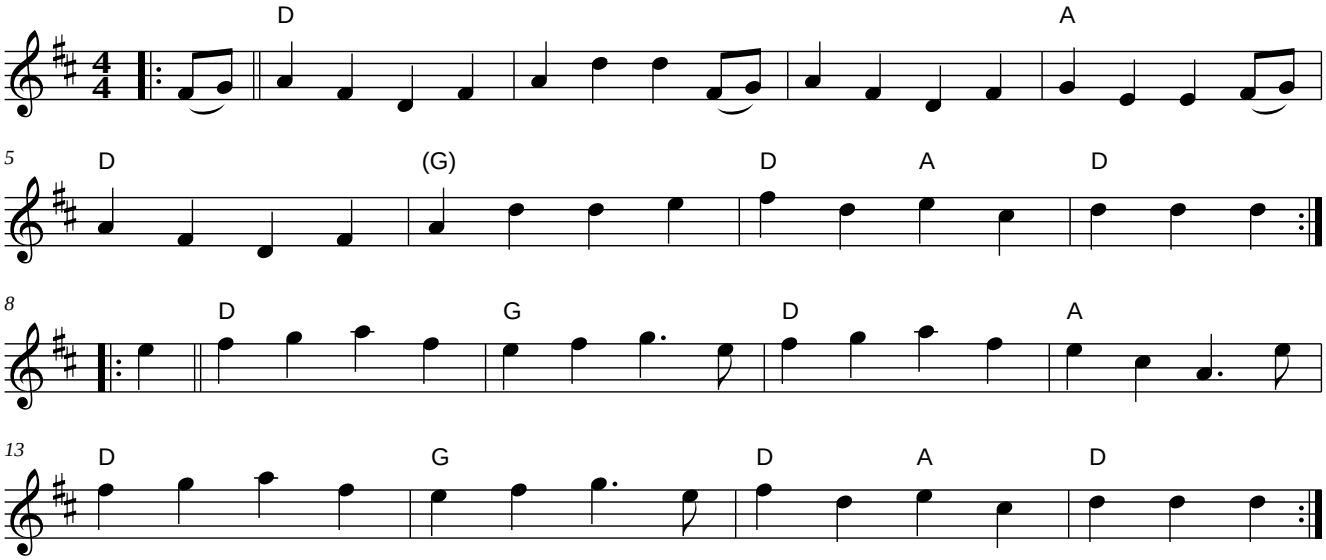
A mix



Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.172
Chords from Sarah Comer

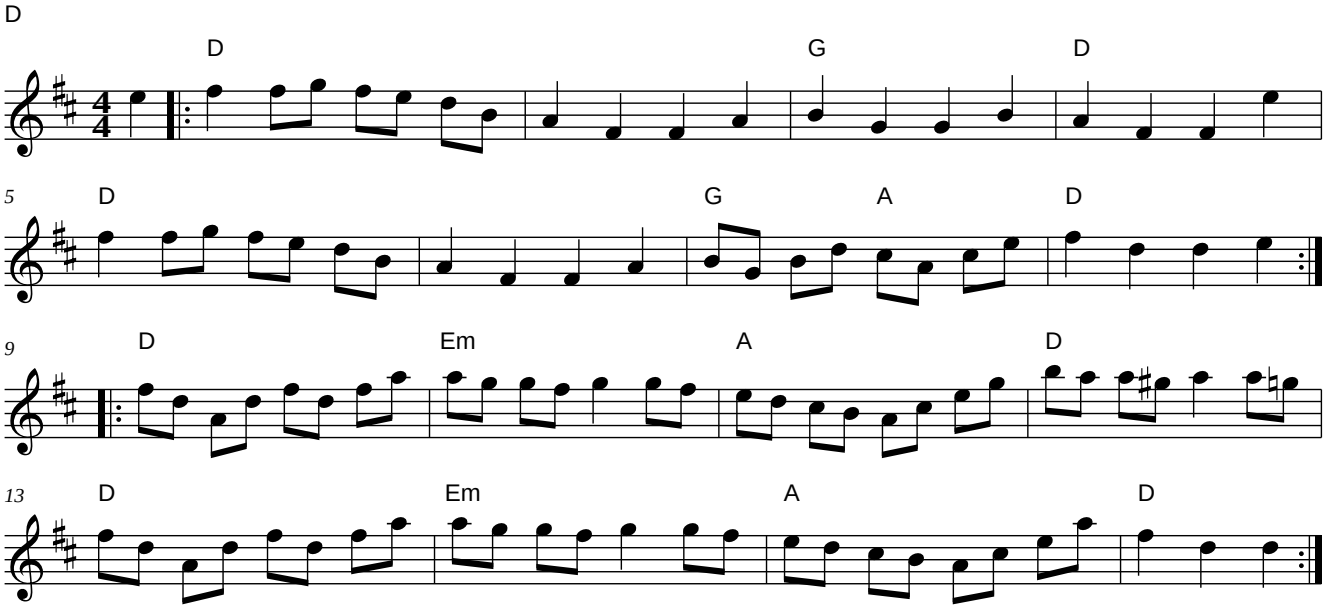
Soldier’s Joy

D



Aural Source: Sarah Comer

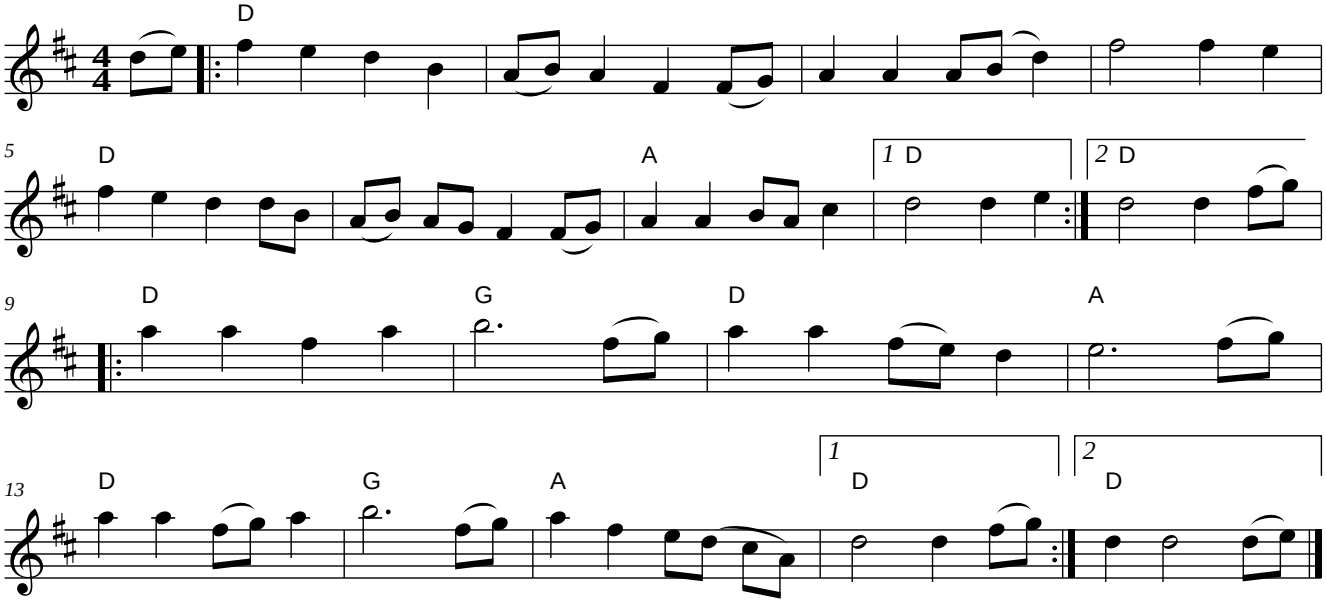
St. Anne's Reel



Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.184

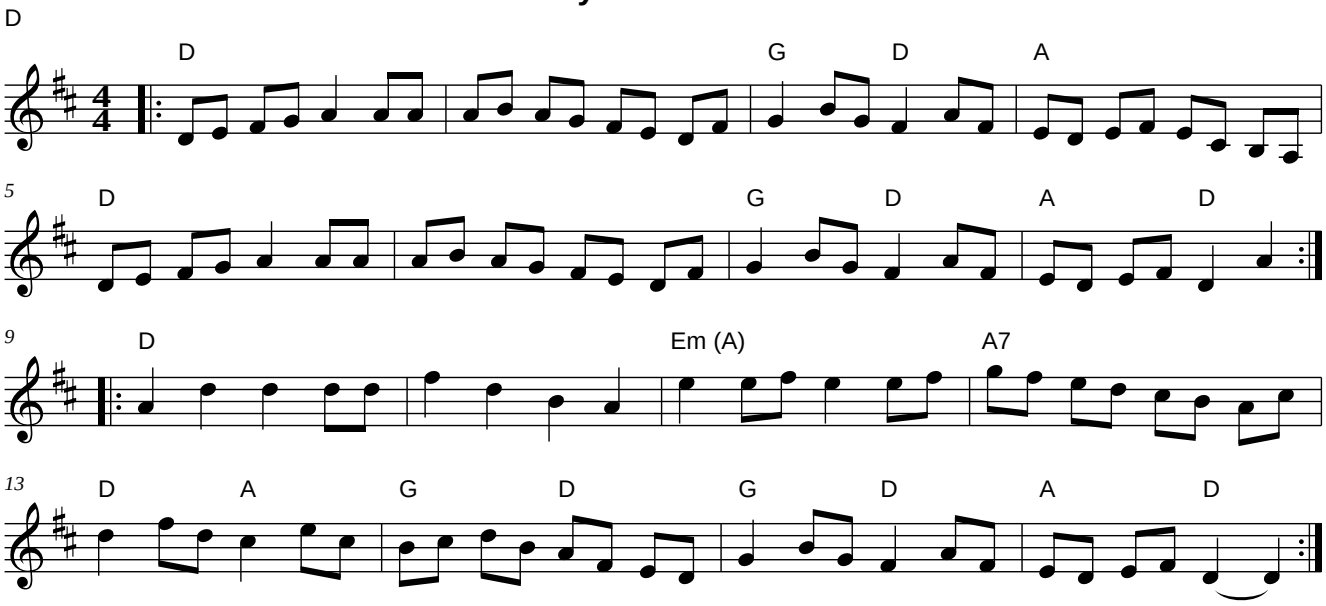
Western Country

Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss
Suzanna Gal



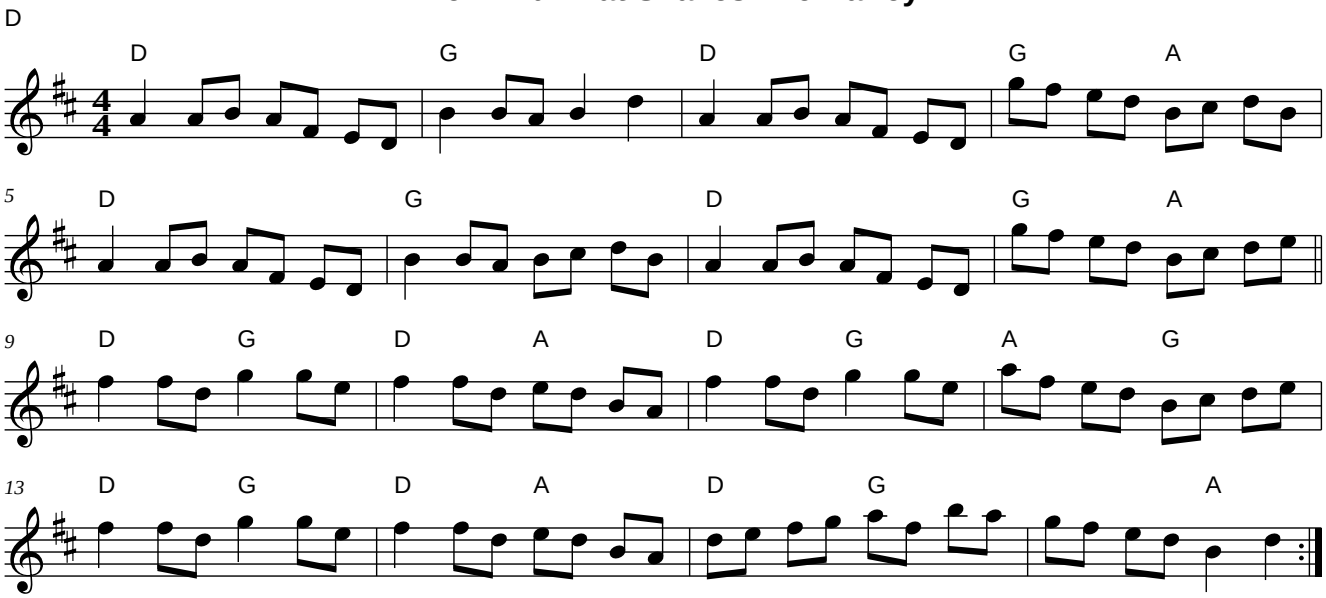
Written Source: Levenson's Festival Tunes, p.80

Whiskey Before Breakfast



Written Source: Complete Tractor, p.210
The bluegrassers all play that E minor chord in measure 11, but most old time backup players just play A.

The Wind That Shakes The Barley



Aural Source: As played at Slower Than Dirt