

Americana & Bluegrass tunes For Mandolin



Compiled by Ron McLaughlin 2025

AMERICANA TUNES For MANDOLIN

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Angeline The Baker

Based on a melody by Stephen Foster 1850

The musical score for 'Angeline The Baker' is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note D, a half note G, and a quarter note F#. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note E, a half note D, and a quarter note C#. The third staff features a quarter note B, a half note A, and a quarter note G. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a quarter note F#, a half note E, and a quarter note D. The score includes various musical notations such as beams, slurs, and repeat signs. Chord symbols D, A, and G are placed above the notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a first ending bracket labeled '1. D' and a second ending bracket labeled '2. D'.

Arkansas Traveller

Tradiional American 1847

D G A D A D A

D G A D G 1.A D 2.A D

D G D A D A

D G D A D G 1.A D 2.A D

Ashokan Farewell

Jay Unger

D G Em D Bm

G A D G Em D

A D G D

Bm A D C G

D A D

The Big Sandy

American fiddle tune
Written by Kenny Baker and Bill Monroe,
Recorded by Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys in 1963

The musical score for 'The Big Sandy' is presented in four staves, all in treble clef, A major (three sharps), and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a key signature change from three sharps to two sharps (F# and C#) for the first measure, then returns to three sharps. It features a repeat sign after the first measure and a key signature change to two sharps for the remainder of the staff. Chords A and E are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with a key signature change to two sharps and includes first and second endings marked '1. A' and '2. A'. The third staff features a key signature change to two sharps and includes chords A, D, E, and A. The fourth staff continues the melody with a key signature change to two sharps and includes first and second endings marked '1. A' and '2. A'.

Billy In The Lowground

Old time Bluegrass Fiddle Tune

*Origins of the tune date back to 18th Century Scottish and Irish traditional music .
It became popular in America in the 19th and early 20th century
and was popular amongst confederate soldiers. during the American civil war (1861–1865)*

♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\overset{\frown}{\text{3}}}}$
C

C Am F G

C Am F G C

C Am

C Am F G C

Blake's March

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ru9LCVDd5w8>

Norman Blake

Chord symbols: G, C, G, D7, G, C, G, D7, ¹G, ²G, C, G, C, G, D7, G.

Bonaparte Crossing The Rhine

Traditional American March (D Maj)

The musical score is written for guitar in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The notation includes treble clef, key signature, and time signature. Chord labels (D, A, G) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmony. The melody is composed of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some measures containing rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Cripple Creek

Traditional bluegrass fiddle/banjo tune

Main Melody

A

G C G D7 G C G D7 G

Variations

B

G C G D7 G G C G D7 G

C

G C G D7 G G C G D7 G

From singing of Gid Tanner and his Skillet Lickers (1929):

Roll my breeches to my knees
Goin' up Cripple Creek when I please.

Goin' to Cripple Creek, going in a run;
Goin' to Cripple Creek to have a little fun.

Goin' to Cripple Creek, going in a whirl;
Goin' to Cripple Creek to see my girl.

Goin' to Cripple Creek, going in a whirl;
Goin' to Cripple Creek to see my girl.

Dixie Hoedown

American fiddle tune written by Jim and Jesse McReynolds. 1959

The musical score for "Dixie Hoedown" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords G, C, G, and D7. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords G, C, Am, G, D7, and G. The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords G, Bm, C, and G. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords D, D7, G, D7, and G. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth staff.

G C G D7

G C Am G D7 G

G Bm C G

D D7 G D7 G

East Tennessee Blues

American Old Time Fiddle Tune (1st recorded 1926)

Swing! ♩ = ♩³

The musical score is written for a fiddle in 4/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo/style marking of 'Swing! ♩ = ♩³'. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The second staff continues the melody, with a first ending bracketed over the last two measures. The third staff begins with a second ending bracketed over the first two measures. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence. Chord symbols (C, F, G, D) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. The notation includes various fiddle techniques such as triplets, slurs, and accidentals.

Flop Eared Mule

Traditional American fiddle tune

The musical score for 'Flop Eared Mule' is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is marked with a 'D' above the first measure and an 'A' above the fifth measure. The second staff continues the melody, marked with 'D' above the first measure, 'A' above the fifth measure, and 'D' above the ninth measure. It ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The third staff begins with a repeat sign, followed by the melody marked with 'A' above the first measure and 'E' above the fifth measure. The fourth staff continues the melody, marked with 'A' above the first measure, 'E' above the fifth measure, and 'A' above the ninth measure. It ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Forked Deer

Traditional American reel

The musical score for 'Forked Deer' is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music, each with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The chords are indicated by letters above the notes.

Staff 1: D G A7 D A7

Staff 2: D G A7 D G A7 D

Staff 3: A E7 A D

Staff 4: A E7 D G A7 D

Gold Rush

Bill Munroe

The musical score for "Gold Rush" is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature, followed by a key signature of two sharps. The melody starts with a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, and a half note A4. A repeat sign follows, with a chord label 'A' above the first measure. The second staff continues the melody, with a chord label 'E' above the eighth measure. It includes a first ending (1.A) and a second ending (2.A). The third staff starts with a repeat sign and a chord label 'A' above the first measure, followed by a chord label 'D' above the fourth measure and a chord label 'A' above the seventh measure. The fourth staff continues the melody, with a chord label 'D' above the first measure, a chord label 'A' above the fourth measure, and a chord label 'E' above the eighth measure. It also includes a first ending (1.A) and a second ending (2.A). The score concludes with a double bar line.

Golden Slippers

Traditional American

1. D

2. D

10

15

1.

2.

D

D

A

G

GRUB SPRINGS

Traditional American fiddle tune

G D G D

G D7 G

G C G C

G C G D7 G

Jenny Lynn

Traditional

The musical score for "Jenny Lynn" is written in A major (three sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of guitar tablature. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with fret numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The third staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. The fourth staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. The fret numbers 1, 2, and 3 are consistently used throughout the piece.

Kentucky Waltz

Bill Monroe - 1946
(Arr: R. McLaughlin)

♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\text{3}}$ ♩

D A

D G

D E A D

Liberty

Traditional American fiddle tune

D G

D G A 1. D 2. D

D A

D G A 1. D 2. D

New Five Cents

(Buffalo Nickle)

traditional

American old-time fiddle tune dating back to early 20th C

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains 8 measures, with a 'D' chord marking above the second measure and an 'A' chord marking above the eighth measure. The second staff contains 8 measures, with 'D', 'G', 'A', and 'D' chord markings above the first, third, fifth, and seventh measures respectively. The third staff begins with a repeat sign and contains 8 measures, with 'D' and 'A' chord markings above the first and eighth measures. The fourth staff also begins with a repeat sign and contains 8 measures, with 'D', 'G', 'A', and 'D' chord markings above the first, third, fifth, and seventh measures respectively. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Old Joe Clark

American folk song and popular fiddle tune.

Its lyrics refer to a real person named Joseph Clark, a Kentucky mountaineer who was born in 1839 and murdered in 1885.

The main melody of 'Old Joe Clark' is presented in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with quarter and eighth notes. Chord symbols 'A' and 'E' are placed above the first and fifth measures respectively. The second staff continues the melody, with 'A' and 'E' above the first and fourth measures. The third staff features a repeat sign at the beginning, with 'A' and 'E' above the first and fourth measures. The fourth staff concludes the melody with a repeat sign, with 'A' above the first measure.

Variation

The variation of 'Old Joe Clark' is presented in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is more complex than the main version, featuring sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Chord symbols 'A' and 'A' are placed above the first and fifth measures respectively. The second staff continues the variation, with 'A' above the first measure and '1. A' above the eighth measure. The third staff features a repeat sign at the beginning, with '2. A' above the first measure and 'G' above the eighth measure. The fourth staff concludes the variation with a repeat sign, with 'E' and 'A' above the seventh and eighth measures respectively.

Over The Waterfall

Traditional American reel (D Maj)
from fiddler Henry Reed of Glen Lyn, Virginia

The musical score for "Over The Waterfall" is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music, each with a corresponding chord marking above it. The chords are: D, A, D, A, D, A, D, C, G, D, G, D, A, D. The melody is a traditional American reel, featuring a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed sixteenth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Pig Ankle Rag

Rag - D Maj (1905 by Maimie E Williams, Kansas City).

♩ = ♩³ A D

A D

G D A 1D 2D

A D

A D

G D A 1D 2D

Prettiest Little Girl In The County

American Reel (D Maj)

D A A D A7 D A D D A D A D 1. A D 2. A D

B

Salt Creek

Reel (A Maj) Bill Munroe - based on Traditional Americal reel 'Salt River'

Swing! ♩ = ♩³

A D G E

A D G E A

A G

A G E A

Shove that pig's foot a little farther into The fire

Trad American (Reel Key G maj)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed sixteenth notes. Chord symbols (G, C, D) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. The piece begins with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Chord symbols: G, C, G, D, G, C, G, D, G, C, G, D, G.

Soldier's Joy

Traditional Scottish hornpipe / reel

Popular amongst American fiddle bluegrass, old time players.

The term came to refer to a substance that was a combination of whiskey, beer, and morphine used to alleviate pain during the American Civil War.

D A

D G D A 1. D 2. D

D A D A D

A D A 1. D 2. D

48 Dogs In The Meat House

Stone's Rag

Oscar Stone

C F D

G C G C E7

A D G

C G E7 C G C

Walk Along, John

Traditional American fiddle tune
recorded by 'Luke Highnight and His Ozark Strutters' in 1928

The musical score for "Walk Along, John" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords G, C, G, and D7 G. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords G, C, G, and a repeat sign. The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords Em, D7, G, and Em. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords G, C, and two first endings (1. D7 G and 2. D7 G) leading to a final measure.

Whiskey Before Breakfast

Canadian/American Reel (DMaj)

A

Section A is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The second staff includes a first ending bracket over measures 5 and 6, and a second ending bracket over measures 7 and 8. The third staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature of two sharps. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, A, D, G, D, A, D, A7, D, G, D, A, D, A, D.

Alternate repeat B part

The alternate repeat B part is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A, G, D, G, D, A, D, G, D, A, D.

Wildwood Flower

Traditional American tune
Popularised by the Carter Family on a 1928 recording
based on a tune: 'Til Twine 'Mid The Ringlets from 1860s

The musical score for "Wildwood Flower" is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: C, G, C, G, C, C7, F, C, G, C. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Staff 1: C G C
Staff 2: G C C7 F
Staff 3: C G C

