



1994 -- 3rd Quarter Newsletter

The Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective is a member-supported group of players of mountain and hammered dulcimers, and those who enjoy listening to dulcimers and/or playing other traditional instruments with them. The group meets once per month to share tunes and information. Dues are \$5.00 per year payable to Carl Cochrane, 12 Pheasant Dr, Asheville, NC 28803.

Song Review Schedule

We'll review the following pieces this quarter: (Don't forget that all tunes through the 2nd Quarter 1991 have been redone with full chords and are available in "the box" at each meeting.)

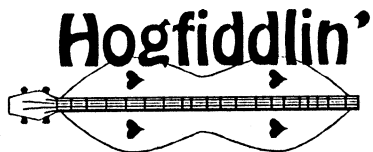
JULY: Donkey Riding (4th Quarter, 1991)
Hangman, Slack On The Line (2nd Quarter, 1992)
Storms Are On The Ocean (3rd Quarter, 1993)

AUGUST: Lonesome Cowboy (1st Quarter, 1993)
Lynchburg Town (4th Quarter, 1990)
Sweet Hour of Prayer (3rd Quarter, 1991)

SEPTEMBER: The Eagle's Whistle (3rd Quarter, 1992)
A Railroader For Me (2nd Quarter, 1993)
Sorghum Syrup (3rd Quarter, 1990)

"Be A Happy Musician"

At the risk of having you all find out what a good newsletter can contain as well as look like (and also of being accused of plagiarism), I'm including a page from the *North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association's* "Foothills Footnotes". Susan Posey, NGFDA's president, is a new member of our group, and sent me a copy of their professional-looking newsletter. They're planning a festival in November - we'll get more details in the next newsletter. If you'd like to get their newsletter and find out sooner, you can join by sending \$12 to Randy Case, 735 Singley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA, 30243.



Hogfiddle (hōg'fid'l) n., [Colloquialism common to West Virginia] The mountain or lap dulcimer.

Be a happy musician

By Les Scott

“In music education, we deal with talent better than desire. We need to believe that desire and rescue it from beneath the mountains of bad experiences that some students carry.”

— Dale Topp, professor of music, Calvin College
(Quoted from *Making Music for the Joy of It*, by Stephanie Judy)

As a teacher, I find that it is just as important to empower and affirm students in their pursuit of music as it is to actually show them how to play. Many of these folks come to me as a last resort. Having failed to play other instruments in the past, they try the dulcimer, hoping that maybe, just maybe, they might finally be able to play an instrument. Some people come into my studio carrying heavy burdens imposed upon them by insensitive and judgemental teachers in the past — teachers who discouraged improvisation and experimentation, who equated error with sin, who forgot that there is a reason we *play* music. All of these people carry great pain but, through all of it, I am constantly impressed by their courage to keep going until the music within them can finally come out. I am also very impressed with how well the dulcimer serves to make this process easier.

For all of these brave souls and for all others who would like to use the dulcimer to overcome musical blocks and to soothe the pain of the past, I have sorted through my own “mountains of bad experiences” and in the process the dulcimer has taught me three rules to live by as I learn how to *play* music and keep it from being a chore.

RULE #1: BE LAZY.

By this I mean that we should play the easiest way. Many times I find that my job as a teacher is to help a student to remove self-imposed burdens. Strumming is a good example of this. Using the whole arm to move one little pick is not the lazy way to strum; it requires more energy than learning to strum from the wrist. Similarly, it requires more energy to think about your music than it does to feel it. The lazy way to play is to learn a song by playing it over and over, working out tricks, ornaments, and phrasing along the way. Then, even before you can play the song well, you can begin feeling the music more and thinking about it less, letting it flow effortlessly from you.

Finally, I should say the work “practice” is out. *Don't practice!* Practice is work. Playing music is a recreational activity; it does no good to bring the values and practices of the workplace into your musical sessions. Learn to *play*.

RULE #2: CHEAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

When I teach beginners, someone will inevitably ask me, “What is the right way to hold the pick...to place my fingers...to play that phrase...?” as if there was only one right way to do things. As I think about it, in all my years of playing the dulcimer (many of which were spent learning and playing without any other players around), this remarkable little instrument has never let me learn any bad habits. Cheating means defying the “rules,” throwing away the book that says there is only one “right” way, and finding the way that works for you. In the same way, remember that cheating applies to tablature as well. If the tab is too hard for you, it can and should be simplified. If you feel or hear the phrasing differently than the author of the tab, you can “cheat” and change it. If you want to change the harmonization or add ornaments, you have the power to do so. It is not God’s law just because it is written on paper. While it is good to know how to read music and tab, remember that the paper is just the starting point. Cheat and make the music yours.

RULE #3: WHEN IN DOUBT, FAKE IT.

Why not? Everybody else does — even the most accomplished musicians. When playing music, particularly if you play with others, the script reads, “Stay on the wagon,” not “Play it perfectly.” Perfection is a heavy burden to carry; if you wait for it you will never truly play. Sooner or later, everybody has to fake it. No matter how well you have learned that song, something will happen to make your brain go completely blank and your fingers seem like they belong to someone else. But the music is more than you and can still flow through you even though you may be on red alert. Mistakes and glitches are just turbulence along the way; if you are not ashamed of faking it you will recover much faster when they happen. To be a truly happy musician, follow the dictum first introduced by a character on TV’s “Andy Griffith Show” — “Just jump in and haaang on!”

Don't practice!
Practice is work.
Playing music is a
recreational
activity.

In music we walk a fine line between structure and flight. Structure helps us to learn and to stay together when we play, but if maintaining structure is the paramount purpose of our music, we cannot fly. The beauty of the dulcimer is that it lets us fly so soon in the learning process. We dulcimists don’t have to toil with practicing scales and technique before the music can flow. The music flows from us right away. The process of learning is the process of making things easier and more fun. The happy musician says with enthusiasm, “I’m a lazy cheatin’ faker — and proud of it!” ■

GOT A QUESTION?

If you have a question regarding technique, a specific song, music theory, or anything else that’s holding you up, send it to Les or to *Foothills Footnotes* for a question-and-answer “Hogfiddlin’” column.

Amazing Grace

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

Words: John Newton, 1779

Arrangement: Steve Smith

	D	G	D
	A- maz- ing grace!	How sweet the sound	that
Notes	A -	D - - - F#D	F# - - - E -
D	0	0 (0) 0 0	0 (0) 0
A	5	5 (0) 5 5	7 (3) 7
dd	4	7 (2) 9 7	9 (4) 8
D	0	0 (0) 0 0	0 (0) 0
A	0	0 (3) 0 0	0 (5) 0
AA	0	3 (5) 5 3	5 (7) 4

	D	A	
	saved a wretch	like me!	I
Notes	D - - - F# D	F# - - - E -	A - - - - - F# -
D	0 (0) 0 0	0 (0) 0	0 (3) (1) 0
A	5 (0) 5 5	7 (1) 7	9 (1) (2) 9
7	7 (2) 9 7	9 (3) 8	11 (1) (1) 9
D	0 (0) 0 0	0 (0) 0	6+ (3) (1) 6+
A	0 (3) 0 0	0 (1) 0	0 (0) (0) 0
3	3 (5) 5 3	5 (3) 4	7 (4) (2) 5

	D	G	D
	once was lost,	but now am	found; was
Notes	A - - - F# E	D - - - A -	B - - - D B
D	0 (0) 0 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0 0
A	10 (0) 7 7	5 (3) 5	6 (3) 6 6
11	11 (0) 9 8	7 (4) 4	5 (5) 7 5
D	7 (0) 0 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 3 3
A	0 (3) 0 0	0 (5) 0	0 (6) 0 0
7	7 (5) 5 4	3 (7) 0	1 (8) 3 1

	D	A	D
	blind, but now	I see.	
Notes	D - - - F# D	F# - - - E -	D - - - - -
D	0 (3) 0 0	0 (1) 0	0 (2)
A	5 (1) 5 5	6 (2) 6	5 (0)
7	7 (0) 9 7	9 (1) 8	7 (0)
D	0 (0) 0 0	4 (1) 4	0 (2)
A	0 (1) 0 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0)
3	3 (3) 5 3	5 (2) 4	3 (3)

Chester

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

William Billings, 1778
Arrangement: Steve Smith

	D	A	D	G	Bm	A	
	Let	ty-	rants	shake	their	i - ron	
Notes	A -	B	C#	D -	A -	B D C# B	
D-A-dd	0 3 4	0 4 5	0 4 6+	0 5 7	0 3 4	0 6 5	0 2 4
D-A-AA	0 5 7	0 6 8	0 6 9	0 7 10	0 5 7	0 6 9	0 4 7

	D	G	D	G	Em	A	
	And	slav-	'ry	clank	her	gall - ing	
Notes	A -	A	A	A B	A F#	G F# E D	
D-A-dd	0 3 4	0 3 4	0 3 4	3 3 4	3 3 4	0 1 3	0 1 1
D-A-AA	0 5 7	0 5 7	0 5 7	0 6 7	0 6 8	0 5 7	0 3 5

	D	G	D	A	D	A	D
	We	fear	them	not,	we	trust	in
Notes	A -	B	B	A -	B C#	D A B C#	D - - -
D-A-dd	0 3 4	3 3 5	3 3 5	0 3 4	4 4 5	0 5 7	4 4 6+
D-A-AA	0 5 7	0 6 8	0 6 8	0 5 7	0 6 8	0 7 10	0 6 9

	D	G	D	G	A	Bm	A	D
	New	Eng-	land's	God	for-	e - ver	reigns.	
Notes	D -	B	A	B G	E A	D G F# E	D - - -	
D-A-dd	0 5 7	3 3 5	0 3 4	3 3 5	3 3 1	1 0 4	0 1 0	
D-A-AA	0 7 10	0 6 8	0 5 7	0 6 8	0 6 4	4 0 7	0 0 4	

Old Spinning Wheel

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

Traditional
M.D. Arr: Steve Smith

	D	A	A	D	
Notes	F#G	A - F#D A - F#GA	G E - - - - E F#	G - E C# A - BA G	F#- - - - - F#G
D	0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1	1 4 4 1 1 1 1	0 0 0 0
A	0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
dd	2 3	4 - 9 7 4 - 2 3 4	3 1 - - - - 1 2	3 - 8 6+4 - 5 4 3	2 - - - - - 2 3
D	0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	4 4 4 4	4 8 8 8 8 8 8	0 0 0 0
A	0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
AA	5 6	7 - 12 10 7 - 5 6 7	6 4 - - - - 4 5	6 - 11 9 7 - 8 7 6	5 - - - - - 5 6

	D	A	A	D
Notes	A - F#D A - F#GA	G E - - - - E F#	G - E C# A - BA E	D - - - - - C#D
D	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1	1 4 4 4 4 4 4	0 0 0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
dd	4 - 9 7 4 - 2 3 4	3 1 - - - - 1 2	3 - 8 6+4 - 5 4 8	7 - - - - - 6+7
D	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	4 4 4 4	4 8 8 8 8 8 8	0 0 0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
AA	7 - 12 10 7 - 5 6 7	6 4 - - - - 4 5	6 - 11 9 7 - 8 7 11	10 - - - - - 9 10

	G	D	D	A
Notes	D - - C#DE DC#B	B A - - - - F# G	A - G A B A G F#	E - - - - - F# G
D	5 5 5 5 5 5 5	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 3 0 0 0	1 1 1 1
A	6 6 6 6 6 6 6	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 3 3 1 0	0 0 0 0
dd	7 - - 6+7 8 7 6+5	5 4 - - - - 2 3	4 - 3 4 5 4 3 2	1 - - - - - 2 3
D	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	4 4 4 4
A	8 8 8 8 7 6	6 5 3 4	5 4 5 6 5 4 3	0 0 0 0
AA	10 - - 9 10 11 10 9 8	8 7 - - - - 5 6	7 - 6 7 8 7 6 5	4 - - - - - 5 6

	D	A	A	D
Notes	A - F#D A - F#GA	G E - - - - E F#	G - E C# A - B E	D - - - - -
D	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1	1 4 4 4 4 4 4	0 0 0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
dd	4 - 9 7 4 - 2 3 4	3 1 - - - - 1 2	3 - 8 6+4 - 5 8	7 - - - - -
D	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	4 4 4 4	4 8 8 8 8 8 8	0 0 0 0
A	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
AA	7 - 12 10 7 - 5 6 7	6 4 - - - - 4 5	6 - 11 9 7 - 8 11	10 - - - - -

Soir et Matin

French

Serge DeSaunay/Gilles Le Bigot

1 Part 1-A

A D E F#- F#E D C# B - B A G F# E D E F#G A F#- D A D E

6

F# - F#E D C# B - B A G F# E D E F#G A D - - A D E

10 Part 1-B

F# - F#E D C# B - B A G F# E D E F#G A F# - D A D E

14

F# - F#E D C# B - B A G F# E D E F#G A D - - - - -

18 Part 2-A

C# D - E - G F#G F#E D C#D E F#G A B D E G F#A D - - - - -

23

A D C#A G F# A D C#A G F# E G C# - C# - E G C# - C# -

27 Part 2-B

C# D - E - G F#G F#E D C#D E F#G A B D E G F#A D - - - - -

32

A D C#A G F# A D C#A G F# E G C# - C# - E G C#

MEETING DATES/HOSTS/HOSTESSES

The following people have volunteered to host the upcoming meetings. We always need volunteers - you will need to show up about 1/2 hour early to make sure every- thing is set up. You will also need to arrange for refreshments (but not necessarily bring them).

July 10, 1994 - Jim Fox
August 14, 1994 - Jeanne Grundies
September 11, 1994 - Dan and Lee Hutchens

MEETING LOCATION/TIME

Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at
Crowfield's Condominiums Clubhouse, Hwy 25, Skyland
(1st building on the left as you go in.)

Directions from the North and East: Take Highway 25 South from I-40. 1 mile South of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Crowfield's will be on your right, across from Turtle Creek Shopping Center.

Directions from the South and West: Take I-26 to Exit#6, "Skyland". Go East to Highway 25. Turn left and go about 1-1/2 miles. Crowfield's will be on your left, across from Turtle Creek.

Western North Carolina
Dulcimer Collective
c/o Steve Smith
607 East Blue Ridge Road
East Flat Rock, NC 28726