WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA DULCIMER COLLECTIVE



<u>2013 – 3rd Quarter Newsletter</u>

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 *WNCDC* – Mail checks to Carl Cochrane, 3239 Heritage Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739-3553.

DULCIMER CLUB NEWS

<u>Monthly Tunes</u>: For <u>July</u>: Engine 143. Here's a song sung by the Carter Family that they actually didn't write! It's based on the true story of the wreck of the FFV near Hinton, West Virginia on October 23rd, 1890. The train was on its way to Clifton Forge, Virginia, when it hit a rock slide. For <u>August</u>: Mallebrok. This is a tune well-known in Denmark, but it came from a popular early-1700's French tune, Marlbrough s'en va-t-en guerre which itself was around before the lyrics were added. If you listen closely, you can hear how it later evolved into For He's A Jolly Good Fellow! For <u>September</u>: The Celebrated Trumpet Tune. Another tune from "The Gow Collection of Scottish Dance Music". This one was listed as "Very old" even when published in 1809. Gow was a famous fiddler, but he also served as a royal trumpeter at the end of the 18th century. This tune is a duet that was played in courts at the pronouncement of death sentences. I'm sure the "Very slow and pathetic" playing instruction intends the "causing or evoking pity, sympathetic sadness, sorrow, etc." dictionary definition rather than "miserably or contemptibly inadequate," but I'll bet we've all felt at times more like our playing reflects the latter. Oh well, just keep practicing and have fun and it'll all sound better!

<u>WNCDC WEBSITE</u>: Keep checking <u>www.wncdc.org</u>, our official website! I'm constantly making tweaks and adding new features. Let me know what you think!

	SONG REVIEW SCHEDULE	
July:	Bold Riley Boney Brady	(1 st Quarter, 1999) (2 nd Quarter, 1999) (1 st Quarter, 1993)
August:	Un Canadien Errant Careless Love Chester	(3 rd Quarter, 1992) (2 nd Quarter, 1991) (3 rd Quarter, 1994)
September:	Coleman's March Common Bill Donkey Riding	(4 th Quarter, 1993) (4 th Quarter, 1995) (4 th Quarter, 1991)

Engine 143

- 1. Along came the FFV
 the swiftest on the line
 Running o'er the C&O road
 just twenty minutes behind
 Running into Sou'ville
 headquarters on the line
 Receiving there strict orders
 from a station just behind
- 2. Georgie's mother came to him with a bucket on her arm
 Saying my darling son be careful how you run
 For many a man has lost his life in trying to make lost time
 And if you run your engine right you'll get there just on time
- 3. Up the road he darted against the rocks he crashed Upside down the engine turned and Georgie's breast was smashed His head lay against the firebox door the flames were rolling high I'm glad to be born for an engineer on the C&O road to die
- 4. The doctor said to Georgie my darling boy lie still
 Your life may yet be saved if it is God's blessed will
 Oh no said George that will not do I want to die so free
 I want to die with the engine I love one hundred and forty three
- 5. The doctor said to Georgie
 your life cannot be saved
 Murdered upon a railroad
 and laid in a lonesome grave
 His face was covered up with blood
 his eyes they could not see
 And the very last words
 poor Georgie said
 was nearer my God to thee

From Wikipedia: "Engine One-Forty-Three" is a ballad in the tradition of early American train wreck songs, based on the true story of the wreck of the FFV near Hinton, West Virginia on October 23rd, 1890. The train was on its way to Clifton Forge, Virginia, when it hit a rock slide. The author of the song is unknown, but the best known version of the song was written down by A. P. Carter and recorded by the Carter Family.

Mallebrok

One night while falling asleep with my internet radio on my Last.fm Scandinavian mix station I heard this tune, thought it would be nice on dulcimer and hoped I'd remember the name by the morning. Luckily, I did, and found several versions of it on YouTube and other sites.

It turns out the melody originated in France but changed as it travelled, and I still like the Danish tune the best, although I decided to leave out the lyrics here in the newsletter.

The version of the tune I've arranged is most directly related to a YouTube video by Jørgen Dickmeiss – he plays it simply and cleanly and even in the key of D, so we can play along. And I just love his pronunciation of the title!

Another great YouTube video is titled "Mallebrok, Odense folkekons 2010". It starts with a hundred or so people "singing" in the key of G as they dance, and the musicians jumping in for a verse or two in the key of A.

And if you want to hear the haunting version that first caught my ear, look for "Phønix: Mallebrok". Voice with bass clarinet and accordion and just a touch of percussion – a great mix!

From Wikipedia: Marlbrough s'en va-ten guerre ("Marlborough Has Left for the War" also known as Mort et convoi de l'invincible Malbrough, "The Death and Burial of the Invincible Marlbrough") is one of the most popular folk songs in French. Mallebrok is part of the Danish translation of the first line in the song.

The burlesque lament on the death of John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough (1650–1722) was written on a false rumour of that event after the Battle of Malplaquet in 1709. It tells how Marlborough's wife, awaiting his return from battle, is given the news of her husband's death.

The melody probably predates the song's lyrics, and is used in two other songs, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and "The Bear Went Over the Mountain."

The Celebrated Trumpet Tune

This arrangement is of tune #590 in "The Gow Collection of Scottish Dance Music." It's my first attempt at actually showing a duet in the staff and notes, even though the tab doesn't attempt to play all of both parts – just the melody and some of the harmony. However, if you have a four-string dulcimer in D-A-d-d it's quite possible to play the duet, given the way the two trumpets parts are written. I'll try to get it loaded to the website as the finger-picked version.

From "Defining Strains: The Musical Life of Scots in the Seventeenth Century", edited by James Porter, 2007: A piece of ceremonial trumpet music reportedly performed by the Scottish royal trumpeters in judicial ceremonies was published in the early nineteenth century. "The Celebrated Trumpet Tune" appears, somewhat incongruously, in a collection of Scottish folk music compiled by members of the Gow family, with a note stating that the royal trumpeters performed it when the court "has occasion to Exercise its most painful Duty".

Its inclusion in the collection can be attributed to the fact that Nathaniel Gow, who is identified as the composer of many of the tunes in the volume, served as a royal trumpeter from 1782 until the end of the century. It seems likely that the court's "most painful Duty" was the pronouncement of the death sentence, but whether the piece dates from before the eighteenth century is impossible to ascertain from its description as being "Very Old".

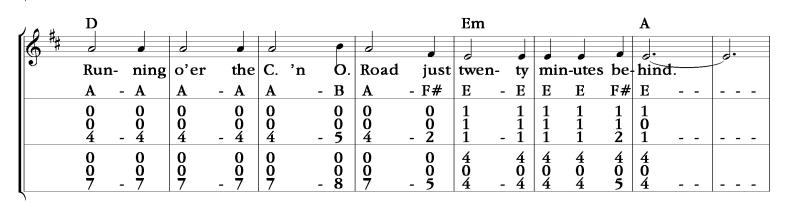
⇒ JVLY '13 ←

Engine 143

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

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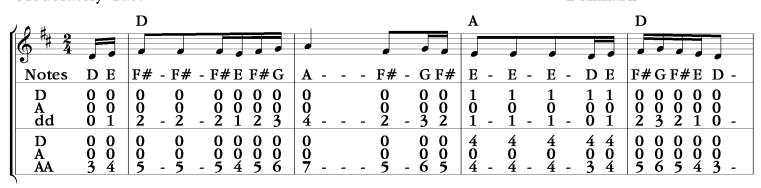
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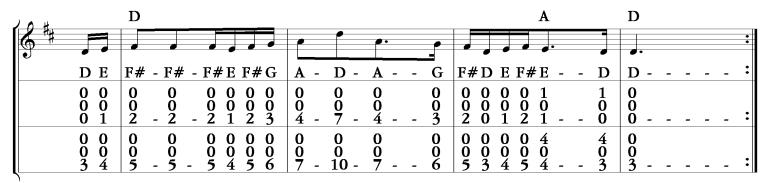
⇒ AUGUST '13 ←

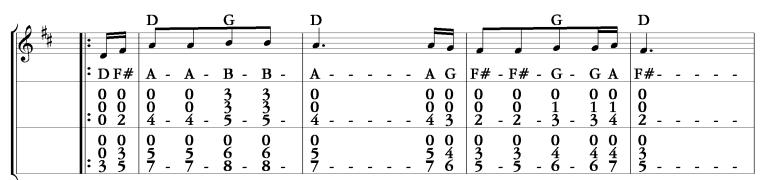
Mallebrok

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

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith Denmark







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⇒ SEPTEMBER '13 ← The Celebrated Trumpet Tune

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA Very slow and pathetic

M.D. Arr: Steve Smith Scottish - Very old

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[&]quot;Upon the Circuits in Scotland this Air is played by his Majesty's Household Trumpets attending the Lords of Justiciary, when that high (Solemn) Court has occasion to Exercise its most painful Duty." The Gow Collection of Scottish Dance Music

MEETING DATES

July 14, 2013 August 11, 2013 September 8, 2013

MEETING LOCATION/TIME

Second Sunday of each month from 2:30-5:00 at The Folk Art Center Upstairs Gallery, Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville

The Folk Art Center is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Milepost 382, about 1/2 mile North of US 70, just East of Asheville. Take I-40 Exit 55 to Highway 70, then left to the Parkway, or take I-240 Exit 7 and go East on Highway 70 to the Parkway. The Club meets in the upstairs gallery, across from the top of the ramp as you enter the Folk Art Center.

Handicapped Access is available: From Highway 70, go West from the Parkway just past the VA Medical Center to Riceville Road. Go to the Folk Art Center Service Entrance. A ramp leads to a second floor entrance next to where we set up.

http://www.wncdc.org



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