



Building a Traditional Tune Repertoire

by Wendy Anthony

Over The Waterfall (Key of D)

The Tune:

The popularity of this instrumental is credited to begin with West Virginian fiddler Henry Reed, who learned the tune as a child in the late 1800's from performers in a travelling show. The same melody is also used for a number of Irish/British/American "bawdy" folk ballads, one of which is called "*Eggs and Marrowbones*", about an old woman who, loving another man, feeds her old husband eggs and marrowbones to make him blind & takes him to the mill pond waterfall to push him in, though somehow she falls in, and he, being blind is unable to save her. *Over The Waterfall* is popular in both Bluegrass & Old-Time repertoires.

Over The Waterfall
Traditional Arranged by Wendy Anthony

Part A
D A D D A

The score consists of five systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. Below the staff is a guitar tablature line with fret numbers (0-5) and a mandolin tablature line with fret numbers (0-5). Chord markings (D, A, G, C) are placed above the staff. The score is divided into Part A (measures 1-12) and Part B (measures 13-17). Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, and 17 are indicated at the start of their respective systems.

Techniques:

- Overview of Tune:** Over The Waterfall can be played in a variety of ways: by picking mostly 1/4 notes, to hear the basic simplicity of the melody or to assist in increasing speed; by adding more 1/8 notes, for tonal variety; or by using chord tones, to round out the melody. The Major 3rd interval is well represented in almost every measure of this tune, for example: Part A Intro: scale run from D up to F#; Measure 2: from F# up to A and from G down to E; Measure 3: from D down to B; how many others can you identify?
- Chords:** In Part A, the D(I) & A(V) chords are each played for 2 beats in a measure, followed by a measure of D(I), until measure 8, where the flatted 7th, C(VIIb) chord is used, before ending on the G(IV) chord. In Part B, the D(I) & G(IV) chords are alternated with the D(I) & A(V) chords, where each are played for 2 beats in a measure, followed by & ending with a measure of D(I)
- Pick Strokes:** Pick all 1/4 notes with Downstrokes & all paired 1/8 notes with Down/Upstrokes. In measure 14, the first 1/8 note (open E) is picked with a Downstroke. The second 1/8 note is created without the pick, using a Hammer-On, by firmly placing the left index (second) finger at the 2nd fret (F#) of the E strings to make the note ring. Keep the same note fretted to pick the third 1/8 note with another Downstroke

Variations:

- Part A Variations:** Add chord tone notes to the melody line to create a full, rich sound.

Part A Variations - add chord notes

The diagram shows a melody line in G major, 4/4 time. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: D (measures 1, 4, 6), A (measure 5), and C (measure 8). The guitar fretboard diagram below shows the following fingerings:

| String | Measure 1 | Measure 4 | Measure 6 | Measure 5 | Measure 8 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| E | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| A | 0 | | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| D | 0 | 0 | | 5 | 5 |
| G | 0 | | 0 | 4 | 4 |

- Part B Variations:** Use Hammer-Ons; change the direction of an 1/8 note run; replace 1/4 notes with 1/8 notes; replace 1/8 notes with another note in the same key.

Part B Variations

The diagram shows a melody line in G major, 4/4 time. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: D (measures 11, 15), G (measures 12, 17), and A (measure 17). The guitar fretboard diagram below shows the following fingerings:

| String | Measure 11 & 15 | Measure 12 | Measure 15 | Measure 17 |
|--------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| E | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| A | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| D | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| G | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |

Note: A Hammer-On (H) is indicated above the second fret of the E string in measure 11.

3. **Simplify the Melody:** By using 1/4 notes instead of paired 1/8 notes, you can hear the simple beauty of this melody. Playing at faster speeds is also easier with less notes.

Over The Waterfall - Part A

Chords: D A D D A D D A D C G

Tablature: E 2 5 3 2 0, A 5 2 0 5, D 2 5 3 2 0, G 5 5 5 4, E 2 5 3 2 0, A 5 2 0 0 2, D 3 3 2 0, G 5

Over The Waterfall - Part B

Chords: D G D D A D D G D D A D

Tablature: E 0 2, A 0 2 0, D 0 4 5, G 0 5 4 5, E 2 3 2, A 0 2, D 0 2 0, G 0 4 5, A 0 0, D 5 4 2, E 0 4

Comments or Suggestions?

Keepin' tuned ...
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