



Building a Traditional Tune Repertoire

by Wendy Anthony

Cold Frosty Morning (Key of A Dorian)

The Tune:

Cold Frosty Morning, popular in the Old-Time repertoire, is an appropriately named tune to learn to play on those cold winter days common to the northern hemisphere. This tune is also known as (aka) *Cold Frosty Morn* or *Frosty Morning*.

Techniques:

- **Overview of Tune:** *Cold Frosty Morning* is a minor-sounding tune, played in the A Dorian Mode, using mainly A minor & G Major chords. The rhythm has some syncopated pick strokes in Part B.
- **Dorian Mode & Chords:**
 - The Dorian Mode has 1 sharp more than the minor of the same key (Am has no sharps, so A Dorian has 1 sharp - F#). The main chords used are the minor I (Am) & the Major VII (G). Some players will use A Major for first 2 bars of Part B, reverting back to Am for the rest.

Part A: ||: Am | Am | G | G | Am | Am | Am/G | Am :||

Part B: ||: Am | Am | G | G | Am/C | D/E | Am/G | Am :||

- **Pick Strokes:** Pick all 1/4 notes with Downstrokes & all paired 1/8 notes with Down/Upstrokes. The syncopated rhythm in Measure 9, emphasizes the off-beat notes using an upstroke in two different phrases. In the first 4-note phrase, pick the first two 1/8 notes with a Down/Upstroke, hold the fretted finger for the tied 1/8 note, then pick the final 1/8 note with another Upstroke. The second 3-note phrase is played similarly, picking the 1/4 with the usual Downstroke, then once again, hold the fretted finger for another tied 1/8 note, before picking the final 1/8 note with another Upstroke. This second phrase rhythm & picking pattern is also repeated in measures 8, 12, 13 & 16.

Comments or Suggestions?

Keepin' tuned ...
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Cold Frosty Morning

Traditional OldTime

Arranged by Wendy Anthony

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a guitar tablature staff. The time signature is 4/4. Chords are indicated above the staff: Am, G, Am, G, Am, Am, Am, G, Am, C, D, E, Am, G, Am.

System 1: Treble clef staff with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Tablature: E (2), A (5), D (0), G (2) | 0 2 0 0 2 | 3 0 3 5 0 | 0 | 5 2 0 5 0 | 5 0 2 3 5.

System 2: Treble clef staff with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Tablature: T (5), A (2), B (0) | 2 | 0 2 0 0 0 | 3 0 3 5 0 | 0 2 | 3 2 0 3 2 0 | 5 | 0 2 0.

System 3: Treble clef staff with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Tablature: T (9), A (0), B (5) | 0 5 5 5 5 5 7 5 3 0 | 5 | 0 5 0 2 3 2 | 0 5 3 5 0 0.

System 4: Treble clef staff with notes G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Tablature: T (13), A (0), B (0) | 0 0 3 3 | 5 3 5 0 | 0 2 | 3 2 0 3 2 0 | 5 | 0 2 0.

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