



# Building a Traditional Tune Repertoire

by Wendy Anthony

## Shove That Pig's Foot A Little Closer To The Fire (Key of G)

### The Tune:

As you play more Old-Time music, you will notice that some tunes are known by different names or by multiple versions of a similar name, and many tunes will have names which are very long, descriptive phrases, while other tunes might have obscure meanings. **Shove That Pig's Foot A Little Closer To The Fire**, in the Key of G, is a good example of all of these characteristics.

Also known as (aka): *Shove The Pig's Foot A Little Closer To The Fire*, "Shove" is often replaced by *Push* or *Put*, "A Little Closer" might be replaced by *A Little Farther* or *A Little Bit Further* and "To The Fire" could be replaced by *In The Fire* or *Into The Fire*. To complicate matters even further, this same melody is played in the movie "Cold Mountain", but is called *Ruby With Eyes That Sparkle* & is played in the Key of D.

The meaning of *Pig's Foot*, contrary to what you may first think, has apparently nothing to do with the pig as an animal. In mining & blacksmith terminology, *Pig Metal* is the name given to a crude lump of iron which still needs the impurities to be burnt off before the metal can be made into tools & a *Pig's Foot* is the name given to a blacksmith's tool, as well as various other pig's-foot (cloven hoof) shaped metal tools, such as a common crowbar.

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## Techniques:

- **Overview of Tune:** This simple melody has a lively syncopated feel created from the use of dotted 1/4 notes followed by an 1/8 note.
- **Chords:** The chord changes are played the same in both Parts A & B.

Part A: ||: G | C/G | G | D | G | C/G | G/D | G :||

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

- **Pick Strokes:** Pick all 1/4 notes with Downstrokes & all paired 1/8 notes with Down/Upstrokes. In measures 3, 6, 7, 8 of Part A & measures 11, 12, & 15 of Part B, the dotted 1/4 note is played with a Downstroke, using a count of "1-and-2-" after which the 1/8 note is played on the following "-and-" with an Upstroke. The tied notes in measures 9 & 13 are played the same way.

# Shove That Pig's Foot A Little Closer To The Fire

Traditional Old Time

Arranged for Mandolin by Wendy Anthony

The sheet music is arranged in four systems, each consisting of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature, and a corresponding mandolin tablature staff. The tablature staffs are labeled with strings E, A, D, and G from top to bottom. Chord symbols (G, C, D) are placed above the treble staffs. The first system covers measures 1-4, the second system measures 5-8, the third system measures 9-12, and the fourth system measures 13-16. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing triplets. The tablature includes various fret numbers (0-5) and techniques like bends (marked with a 'v') and slides (marked with a 'p').

Listen to the Midi: [120 bpm](#) & [160 bpm](#)

## Comments or Suggestions?

Keepin' tuned ...  
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