

PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to give bluegrass pickers a book they can use in performances. Large type is used so that it can be read easily during a performance. I've arranged most of the songs in guitar and fiddle keys of G, A, E, and D. There are chord charts in the back of the book.

It was hard to limit the book to 213 tunes. The list of fiddle tunes and old-time tunes that could work for most bluegrass groups is enormous. Maybe I'll do Part II someday.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard L. Matteson Jr. is President of the Piedmont Guitar Society located in Winston-Salem NC. A resident of nearby Lexington, NC he lives in the heart of "bluegrass country" near some of the great festivals such as "Merle Watson Memorial Festival" in North Wilkesboro, NC; the "Mt Airy Fiddler's Convention" in Mt. Airy, NC and the "Galax Fiddler's Convention" in Galax, VA.

Matteson is a member of the High Lonesome Strings Bluegrass Assoc. and plays guitar and sings with his group, The Bluegrass Messengers, a group he created for his students. He teaches guitar, bass, fiddle, mandolin, dobro and banjo at Duncan Music Co, in Winston-Salem, NC.

Richard researches bluegrass and old-time music on his web-site: BluegrassMessengers.com and can be E-mailed from the site. His grandfather, Maurice Matteson, collected folk songs from Beech Mountain, NC and published several short books in the 1930's.

Matteson has performed and done workshops at the Merle Watson Memorial Festival in Wilkesboro and the Chet Atkins Festival in Nashville. He has played with or shared the stage with legendary guitarists Doc Watson, Roy Clark, Chet Atkins and Charlie Byrd. Matteson's other Mel Bay books, "Folk Songs from the Appalachian Mountains," "American Fiddle Tunes," and "Early American Hymns," reflect his deep interest in traditional music.

His bluegrass band, The Bluegrass Messengers, was started in the mid 1990's. Since he teaches guitar, fiddle, dobro, bass, and banjo, the band began as an opportunity for some of his talented students to perform "live" the music that they had been studying. The group has evolved through the last 7 years and four CD's. Although not a professional group, the Messengers enjoy playing and have had the fortune to perform with Doc Watson and other talented musicians. Some of the students that have played with the Messengers have gone on to become successful bluegrass musicians and have won top prizes in bluegrass competitions.

BLUEGRASS PICKER'S TUNE BOOK INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION, DEFINITIONS, ORIGIN, CATEGORIES

Bluegrass music has become popular again. There are more bluegrass pickers today than ever. With the popularity of the movie, "O Brother Where Art Thou?" and the hit crossover song from the movie, "Man of Constant Sorrow," bluegrass music has become a national and international phenomena.

Even though "O Brother" used the "hayseed" or "hillbilly" stereotype that was originally associated with early country and bluegrass (as portrayed in the 70's on TV show's like Hee Haw and the Beverly Hillbillies), the music today is a sophisticated concert music with virtuoso performers. There are many styles and categories

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