

SWANNANOAH TUNNEL REUBEN'S TRAIN

Paul Clayton is the first person we heard do these Appalachian folksongs. We like to think that some of his beautiful style is felt in our arrangement. One dulcimer voices the echoing treble introduction with triplets, trills, and chimes (harmonics). The second dulcimer picks up the melody with double-stops and then they swap holding down the basic tune while taking turns trading lead-line embellishments. Generally each dulcimer is playing in a different octave. *Reuben's Train* is introduced by Albert while Robert is still playing *Swannanoah Tunnel*. When the words to both songs are sung simultaneously, they become a motet of train tunnels and trains. The second time through *Reuben's Train*, the second dulcimer joins the new melody and the swapping action takes place again. The latter song has a definite bridge, which adds a B-part to the melody. The train whistles at the end are bent high and low E notes played on the treble strings:

Swannanoah Tunnel has undergone considerable adaptation throughout the life of the song. Versions can be found going by the names of *Swan O Tunnel* and *Swannanoa Town*. Clayton's rendition lends the theme of the tunnel caving in. Generally, the text tends to follow the pattern of the "John Henry" work songs. Often, "John Henry" lyrics become intermingled with those of *Swannanoah*

Reuben's Train also goes by the name *Reuben*. Our adaptation adds a verse and changes the chorus somewhat. We also leave out the "I'll kill you if I can" type of verses. Many of our alterations to the texts of songs focus on removing the overtly blood-thirsty aspect, particularly if it appears extraneous to the theme of the song.

LYRICS

Swannanoah Tunnel, Ashville Junction,
All caved in, darlin', all caved in.

When you hear that hound dog barkin'
Somebody died, Lord, somebody died.

When you hear that hoot-owl callin'
Somebody is born, Lord, somebody's born.

I didn't come here to get no learnin'
For I already knowed, I already knowed.

There is not another hammer in this tunnel
That rings like mine, that rings like mine.

Take this hammer and give it to the captain
And tell him I'm gone, tell him I'm gone.

I'm not going back to the Swannanoah Tunnel
This is not my home, darlin', this is not my home.

Reuben got himself a train
And he put it on the track.
You can hear the whistle blow a hundred miles.

He put it on the track
And he's never coming back.
You can hear the whistle blow a hundred miles.

CHORUS

And its "oh me, oh my,
Reuben where you been so long?"
Cryin' "Oh me, Reuben, po' boy,
Tell me where you been so long."

Now you ought to been in town
When old Reuben's train went down,
You could hear the whistle blow a hundred miles.

Now I don't know for sure,
B'lieve he's gone to Mexico,
Nine hundred miles from his home.

CHORUS

If I die a railroad man
Want you to bury me in the sand,
So I can hear old Reuben's Special when she blows.

Just lay me on my back
Down beside that railroad track,
So I can hear that lonesome whistle when she blows.

CHORUS

SWANNANOAH TUNNEL

American Traditional

Arr. Force & d'Ossché

Key: D Mixolydian

tuning: ddAD

First system of music with guitar tablature for Robert and Albert.

Chords: D, D, D, D

ROBERT: 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 7

ALBERT: 4 3 | 5 6 | 5 7 | 11 9 | 7 5 | 7 7

Second system of music with guitar tablature for Robert and Albert.

Chords: D, G, D, G⁹, D, E^{m7}

ROBERT: 0 | 0 7 | 0 | 0 | 5 4

ALBERT: 5 4 2 2 4 | 9 8 | 7 7 | 4 5 | 5 4 | 2 2 2 1 1

Third system of music with guitar tablature for Robert and Albert.

Chord: D

ROBERT: 0 | 7 0 | 0 | 0

ALBERT: 5 7 | 7 4 5 | 7 7 | 5 6 | 7 7 | 4 5

REUBEN'S TRAIN

American Traditional

Arr. Force & d'Ossché

Key: D Mixolydian

tuning: ddAD

First system of music with guitar tablature. Chords: D, G, D, G, D, G, D. Includes a boxed section labeled [A].

Second system of music with guitar tablature. Chords: D, G, D, G, D, D, D. Includes first and second endings. Includes a boxed section labeled [A].

Section B of the music with guitar tablature. Chord: Am/D. Includes a boxed section labeled [B].

Final system of music with guitar tablature. Chords: D, A7, D. Includes a boxed section labeled [B].