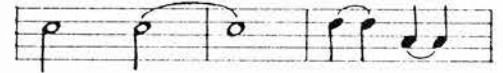


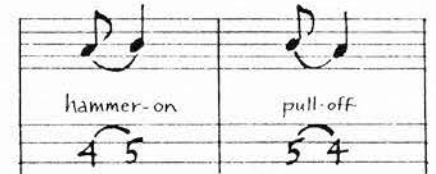
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SYMBOLS

TIME SIGNATURE: this is a common musical symbol describing the basic rhythmic pattern of the music. The time signatures used here are $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{6}{8}$ (pronounced two-four, three-four etc). The top numeral states the number of beats in one measure. The bottom numeral indicates the type of note receiving one beat. For example $\frac{3}{4}$ means there are 3 beats to a measure and one beat = one quarter note (♩). $\frac{6}{8}$ means six beats to a measure and one beat = one eighth note (♪).

TIE: when two or more notes of the same pitch are joined by a curved line—they are said to be tied and are played as one unbroken sound equal to the sum of the individual notes.



SLUR: similar to a tie but connecting two notes of different pitch and indicating that the notes are not to be separated but run smoothly together. To achieve this on the dulcimer or other plucked string instruments, we incorporate the techniques of "hammer-ons" and "pull-offs".

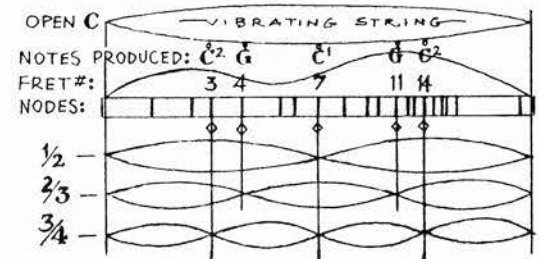


HAMMER-ON: pluck the lower note, 4 on the treble string, while fretting it with the 2nd finger of the left hand. Then, while the string is still sounding "hammer" the index finger down on the string behind the 5th fret with enough force to keep the string in vibration. It must be done accurately so as not to deaden the string.

PULL-OFF: place the index finger on the treble string 5th fret and the middle finger on the treble string 4th fret. Now pluck the string and while it is still in motion; pull the index finger from the string with enough force to make the string vibrate from the 4th fret. If you simply lift the finger straight up from the string it will tend to deaden the sound; so when you "pull-off"; you will be actually plucking the string with your left hand.

SLIDE: is achieved by sounding the lower note and with the same fretting finger, sliding up to the next note, sounding all frets in between.

HARMONICS: high tones of flute-like timbre that are produced by lightly touching the string at one of its nodes, (exact fractional points) while plucking the string, instead of stopping it in the conventional manner. In written music the actual note made by the harmonic is indicated by placing a small circle over the note, while the fret position that produces the note is shown by a lozenge (◇).



6½ FRET: the "standard" dulcimer fingerboard being diatonic (whole step-whole step-half step-whole step-whole step-whole step-half step), this represents the "extra" fret found on some contemporary dulcimers. It is an extra ½ step fret usually located between the standard 6th and 7th frets (it is preferred by some players especially because it offers the choice between major and minor thirds and sevenths in the do-sol-do tuning.)

PICK-UP: a pick-up is an incomplete measure at the head of a tune as in the case of "The Black Nag" where the opening note is actually the 6th beat of an imaginary previous measure. To warm up to it, count 1 2 3 4 5 and come in on 6.

REFRAIN: here used to mean an instrumental chorus. A repeated thematic statement.

FERMATA: ♯ this symbol indicates a held or drawn out note; a rhythmic pause.

BRIDGE: bridge passage - this is a section not directly relating to the main body of music that serves to tie two thematic sections together.

8VA: (Ottava) written below the note indicates playing an octave lower than shown.

VERDI THER A GÖTHU: ("Verði þér að göðu") - to quote Robert Force, "is an Icelandic idiom that means: A. I hope this is well for you, B. May you find this pleasing, or C. I hope this sits well on your stomach."