American Folk Songs for Guitar

Transcribed, Edited and Arranged by David Nadal
INTRODUCTION

When Americans think of their folk songs, they tend to think of a vast body of music familiar to themselves and their friends and neighbors. These are the songs sung to the children, learned in school, or whistled at work and play. Here is music as diverse and vital as the people from which it springs. It is a body of work that includes favorites that are generations old—often music that can be traced back to the far-away lands that were the ancestral homes of the American family. In one way or another, all the songs in this new collection form an intrinsic part of this colorful, extra-ordinarily diverse American culture.

Here are arrangements for guitarists at every level—from the beginning student to the concert artist. For the less experienced musician, I’ve added simplified chord symbols above the tablature. These will help the player to better understand the implied harmonies of the music. And, to create a less intricate, easily manageable texture in the arrangements, I’ve avoided the more complex inversions and extensions.

Perhaps this diversified menu of folk-song favorites—drawn from an immense body of music—will inspire the player to explore this wonderful source and the musical and performance possibilities it presents to all of us.

David Nadal
Queens, New York, 2001

David Nadal is active as a guitarist, teacher, and researcher. Dedicated to expanding the guitar repertoire, he has commissioned and premiered new works for the instrument, performing these compositions and his own arrangements and transcriptions in the United States and abroad. Baccalaureate degrees from both Manhattan School of Music and Yale University, Nadal’s principal guitar studies were with Tom Elliott, Nicholas Golosnoy, Ben Verdery, and Dominic Frasca. His most recent new editions—Late Songs of John Dowland, Guitar Classics, and Easy Classics for Guitar—are available through Dover Publications.

He may be contacted at david.nadal@lyrara.com.
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All the Pretty Little Horses

Arranged by:
David Nadal

With a sad tenderness, somewhat freely (d = ca. 90)

Lullaby of the South

In strict time, like a music box

Repeat as many times as you wish...

diminuendo into nothingness.
Amazing Grace

Arranged by:
Belinda L. Reynolds/Nadal

Flowing (\( \text{m} = 74 \))

\[ \text{Spiritual} \]

G 0 0 0 0 C 0 0 0 0 G 0 0 0 0

D 0 0 0 0 D7 0 0 0 0

G 0 0 0 0 C 0 0 0 0 G 0 0 0 0

G/D 0 0 0 0 D7 0 0 0 0 G 0 0 0 0

\[ \text{Fine} \]
Beautiful Dreamer

With a graceful lilt (\( \text{\textit{d.}} = \text{ca. 70} \))

Arranged by:
David Nasel

Stephen C. Foster
Billy Boy

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Quickly ($d = \text{ca. 80}$)

Song of the Southern Mountaineers
The Blood–Strained Banders

Arranged by: David Nadal

[Probably meant as "Blood–strained banders"—a colloquial image in the verse of this wee spiritual.]

With bounce and swing (d = 120)

G G D

Strum the top three strings with i.

Play melody with rest-swipes, (except when strummed)

C D G D G D G D G D

Fine

G D G D C Emi D7 G
Blow the Man Down

Swinging (d. = 70)

Sea Chanty

Use free strokes.

Arranged by:
David Nadai
Bring out the cross-rhythm.
Blue Tail Fly
"Jinny Crack Corn"

Arranged by
David Nodal

Reflective and rhetoric ($ = \text{ca. 180}$)

Minstrel Song

In time ($ = \text{ca. 140}$)

\text{Capo III}
Careless Love

Waltz \( \frac{3}{4} = 50 \)

Kentucky Mountains

Arranged by
David Nadler.

\( \text{D} \)

\( \text{A7} \)

\( \text{D} \)

\( \text{G} \)

\( \text{A7} \)

\( \text{D} \)

\( \text{G} \)

\( \text{Emi} \)

\( \text{Bmi} \)

\( \text{D/A} \)

\( \text{A7} \)

\( \text{D} \)
Charlie Is My Darling

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Playfully, but with a certain sense of tragedy (\( \text{L.} = \text{ca. 108} \))

New England Ballad
Clementine

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Flowing, sadly ($\text{=} 74$)  
Percy Montross

More boisterous ($\text{=} 50$)

D.C. al Fine
Cumberland Gap

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Quickly and with spirit (♩ = 80)  Appalachian Song
Deep River

Arranged by:
David Nadai

Slowly (\( \text{\textit{L} = 66} \))

Spiritual
Down by the Riverside

Swaying along (l = ca. 92)  

VII...  

E7

A

E7

A

Swaying along (l = ca. 92)  

VII...  

E7

A

Swaying along (l = ca. 92)  

VII...  

E7

A

Swaying along (l = ca. 92)  

VII...  

E7

A

Swaying along (l = ca. 92)  

VII...  

E7

A

Swaying along (l = ca. 92)  

VII...  

E7

A
Down in the Valley

Plaintive (ca. $d = 124$)  Appalachian Serenade

Arranged by: David Nadal

* The performer is encouraged to improvise an introduction.
Mechanically (d = d throughout)
Hush, Little Baby

Teaderly (ω = ca. 88)  Appalachian Lullaby

Arranged by:
David Nadal
Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair

Arranged by: David Nadal

Lyrically, not too fast (d = ca. 80)  

Stephen C. Foster
Pop Goes the Weasel

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Playfully (d. = 104)

Children’s Singing Game
She’ll Be Comin’ ‘Round the Mountain

"The Encore Version"

As fast as possible

Railroad Song

Arranged by:
David Nadal

[Sheet music image]

G

C

D

D7

G

G7

C

G

D7

G

N.C.

[Music notation for the song]
Shortnin' Bread

With bounce and swing  $\frac{3}{4}$  

Song of the South

Arranged by:
David Nadal

G

D7  G

C

D7  G

p

D7  G

D7  G
Skip to My Lou

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Joyfully (\( \frac{1}{3} = 100 \))

Play Song

---

D.C. al Fine

riten.
Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Mournfully and rhetorically

Spiritual

Slow, steady and thick: like a dirge (\( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{e}} \) = ca. 60)

```
%VII

Emi
0 7 0 10 0 7 10 0 0

Ami
0 10 0 7 10 0 0 10 0

Emi
0 10 0 7 10 0 0 10 0
```

%VII

```

Ami
0 7 10 0 7 10 0 0

Adim7 B C
0 7 10 0 0 0 0

Emi
0 7 10 0 0 0 0
```

ad lib.

```

Am7 B7
0 3 0 6 4 4

Emi
0 7 6 10 0 0

N.C.
0 7 6 10 0 0
```
Streets of Laredo

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Reflective and sad (q = ca. 94)  Cowboy Ballad

Gmaj7  D/A  A7

D  Gmaj7  D/A  A7

D/A  A7  D  A7

Bmi  G  D/A  A7  D  D6
Turkey in the Straw

Arranged by:
David Nadal

With boance and swing (d = 140+)  \( \begin{array}{c} \text{J} \end{array} \)  Appalachian Fiddle Tune

\[ \text{E} \]

\[ \text{B7} \]  \[ \text{E} \]

\[ \text{B7} \]  \[ \text{E} \]
Hammer on with force to get the top note to sound.
Thanksgiving Prayer

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Reverently (♩ = ca. 89) Colonial Congregational Hymn

[Music notation image]
Wayfaring Stranger

Not fast (\( \text{L} = \text{ca. 96} \))  

Appalachian Lament

Arranged by:
David Nadal
When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Arranged by:
David Nadel

Glorious and mean (d = 100)  

Patrick S. Gilmore

N.C.

DmI  F  DmI

DmI  C  Bb  A

DmI  C  Bb  A7  DmI
Yankee Doodle

March tempo ($\frac{3}{4}$ = 120)

Revolutionary War Song

Arranged by:
David Nadal
Amazing Grace

For Two Guitars

Flowing ($\textit{d} = 74$)

Spiritual

Guitar I

Guitar II

Emi7

A7

D

D7

Gus2

G/B

C

G/B

XII

C7

D7

E7

D7

C7

G/B

G

VII

C

G/B

E7

C

G/B

C/G

G
Black-eyed Susie

Arranged by:
David Nadal

Fast (\( \text{\textit{d}} = 124+ \))

Appalachian Fiddle Tune
American Folk Songs for Guitar

Transcribed, Edited and Arranged by David Nadal

This colorful new anthology of guitar music contains 49 best-loved American folk songs from all corners of the country, from the Deep South to New England, from Appalachia to Gold Rush California. Every song has been specially transcribed, arranged, edited, and newly engraved for guitarists at all levels, in an easy-to-use combination of traditional notation and guitar tablature with simplified chord symbols. As a bonus, two all-time favorites—"Amazing Grace" and "Black-eyed Susie"—are included in arrangements for two guitars.

The collection includes such perennial favorites as "John Henry," "Simple Gifts," and Stephen Foster's incomparable "Beautiful Dreamer." Devotional songs like "Go Down, Moses," "Amazing Grace," and "Deep River" are here along with such sentimental ballads as the timeless "Aura Lee" and "Shenandoah." Patriotic songs—"Yankee Doodle" and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home"—share this wonderful edition with the delights and humor of "Blue Tail Fly," "Little Brown Jug," and the like.

Guitarists, folk singers, and all lovers of America's great traditional music will welcome this sturdy, attractively engraved, and affordable treasury of folk classics.


ALSO AVAILABLE

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THE AMERICAN SONG TREASURY: 100 Favorites, Theodore Rupel. 416pp. 8 1/2 x 11. 25222-1 Pa. $15.95

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