



Junior Hoedownner

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A Few Words from Kodria Haddock

On September 15th one of my Wallowa Fiddle Camp friends, Jackie Huitt, and I put on a teen jam, potluck, and dance. We had a blast. We jammed for three hours, had our potluck and played with our friends, and then danced for three and one-half hours. There were about 30 kids. The kids provided the music for the dance. With the admission fee and cake walks at the jam we were/are raising money for a scholarship to the Wallowa Fiddle Tunes Workshop '08. We thought that since we had so much fun at camp and met so many good friends there that we would like to help someone else go. We are half way to our goal!!!! We are planning to have another jam in April. If any musician would like to come, just let me know, and I will send you the information when it gets closer.

For my 15th birthday I had one of my friends (Jackie Huitt) come over. She came the day before my birthday, and she went to Sunday school, church, and potluck with us. When we got home we played music. My Wallowa friends know a whole different list of tunes than I do, and I had wanted to learn some of them. They are very neat songs. I would learn a song from Jackie, and then I would teach her one that I knew. Once the "teacher" thought that the "student" could play the song well enough they would play their Irish whistle or play harmony on their fiddle. We also played bump (a type of basketball). The next day, on my real birthday, I got breakfast in bed, we played bump, and then we played more music. After that we went

to Pendleton. My fiddle group and I played for a gig, and then Nana and Boppa brought me back home. They ate dinner with us. I had a great birthday.

Fiddling Tips from Beverly Conrad

Last June Beverly gave us permission to re-print fiddling tips from the NOTFA newsletter. Here are a few:

Hum a Few Bars - Now Play It! Many a person has often marveled at the musician who can "Play anything! Never even has to look at the music! Just hum it to 'em, sing it, give 'em a tape and they can play it right off! Ah! To be able to do that! Think of the possibilities... Playing the fiddle is in a sense like whistling or humming. When you hum a tune you don't need to "think" about how to reach the different notes. You don't have to be especially talented - you just have to be human.

When it comes to picking out a tune on the fiddle the same technique is used. We'll start with the Key of G, which is an easy key for fiddlers. Play a simple G major scale from the open G string to the high G - second finger on E string. Play the G major scale many, many times, up and down. Play it till you know it inside out and backwards. Mix it all up, start from the middle and work your way out. Jump around with it. Play it about a hundred times. Get used to it. Get to know the sounds of the scale for the key of G. Close your eyes or blindfold yourself and do it again. The same

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technique can be used for all the scales and keys. It helps to pick one for a week or so and concentrate on it before going on to another one. This way you'll get to truly know the "sound" of that key and scale.

Now play the open G string and hum the note. Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or "Happy Birthday," or any simple tune that you know very well. Sing it loudly, like you mean it, and with feeling! Using the notes that you have learned in the G scale - try to find the song on your fiddle. If you have trouble, try closing your eyes.

Next step is to find a tune to listen to that is in the key of G major. Listen to the tune that you have picked out many times - five, ten - listen to it until you can turn the music off and "hear" it in your mind. Did you ever get a tune stuck in your head? Get this tune stuck in your head to the point where it is playing away like the radio and is just short of driving you nuts.

Now pick up your fiddle. Hum the tune as best as you can. See if you can match up the first note or couple of notes. Play the CD or tape - try to play along. Don't worry about matching up all the notes first time out. Just match them up here and there as you continue playing and listening and playing along. This all gets easier the more times you do it.

Although technology has brought us to a point of having this option, sitting down with a real live fiddler from your area and learning a tune is always best if you have that opportunity. Regional styles are preserved this way even though you may at some point inject your own colorings and personal style. Best advice: as soon as you have the tune down, play it and play it until it has become you. (Thanks Beverley)

Check out Beverley's website at www.fiddlerwoman.com or a couple of nice "how to" books and CDs.

Me and My Fiddle

This tune was made famous by early bluegrass fiddler Benny Martin, who was born in 1928 (died in 2001) and played with such bluegrass giants such as Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs. The tune is shown here in "fakebook" style, meaning just the basic melody is shown. Learn it, and then dress it up with a few inventions of your own.

Me and My Fiddle

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