

Tune of the Month: Arkansas Traveler

The fiddle tune for this month is the familiar Arkansas Traveler. This tune dates back at least as far as the 1850's, when it appeared in a musical entertainment about the dialogue between a traveler and the occupant of a ramshackle cabin. The dialogue might go like this:

(fiddle break)

Q: Does this road go to Little Rock?

A: The road never went anywhere that I ever saw

Arkansas Traveler

[Composer]

Violin

The image shows a musical score for the fiddle tune "Arkansas Traveler" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The second staff has a measure rest at the beginning. The third and fourth staves also have measure rests at the beginning. The score includes handwritten fiddle-style tablature below the notes, using letters D, G, A, and E to represent strings and numbers for fret positions. A 'V' above the staff indicates a bowing or vibrato mark. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

0 2 1 0 2 - 2 2 1 - 1 1 0 - 0 0 1 - 1 1 2 - 2 2 1 2 1 0 2 - 1 -
D D D D G G G G G G D D D D D D D D D D D D D D G G

5 0 2 1 0 2 - 2 2 1 - 1 1 0 - 0 0 3 2 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 2 1 2 0 - 0 -
D D D D G G G G G G D D D A A A A A A A A A A A D D D D D

9 3 - 1 3 2 - 0 2 1 0 3 1 0 - 0 0 3 - 3 3 0 - 0 0 1 0 3 1 0 - 0 -
E E E E E E E E A E E A A A A A E E E E E A E E A

13 3 - 1 3 2 - 0 2 1 0 3 1 0 - 0 0 3 2 3 1 0 2 3 1 0 2 1 2 0 - 0 -
E E E E E E E E A E E A A A A A A A A A A D D D D D