

# Tune of the Month: Marmaduke's Hornpipe

## Marmaduke's Hornpipe

from Earl Willis  
Springfield, OR  
(originally Missouri)

The musical score for Marmaduke's Hornpipe is written in D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a D chord and includes several 'V' ornaments. The second staff continues the melody with chords D, G\*, and A7. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes and chords D, G, and A. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords D, G, A7, and D.

\* The G chord (IV) provides a sense of movement even though it clashes slightly with the melody. This set of chords is known as "Missouri Rules" and is often preferred whether or not it fits exactly.

Variations on measures 2 & 3.

The variations section shows two staves of music. The first staff illustrates a choppy sound achieved by playing close to the frog, with the tip of the bow flying back and forth. The second staff shows a variation with a 'Missouri whip' ornament, which is a specific bowing technique.

The first three of these were Earl's standard interchangeable licks for this type of tune. The last one is lifted from Cricket on the Hearth. Also, try playing the 'A' part up an octave.

A classic Missouri tune played by Earl Willis of Springfield, Oregon. The tune is named for a Nineteenth Century governor of Missouri. Earl was raised in Boone County, Missouri, a descendant of



Daniel Boone's brother on his mother's side. A fine hoedown fiddler, while he lived in California, Earl played for square dancers at the Los Angeles County Fair and for a private party at the home of film star Norma Shearer, where a drunk Frank Sinatra grabbed Earl's fiddle saying, "Lemme see that thing." This carefully detailed transcription comes from Stuart Williams of Seattle, music editor of the Washington Old Time Fiddler's Association newsletter. The transcription appears in the *Evergreen Fiddler Tunebook Vol. 1, 2001-2002*.

**Note:** On line you can find a nice YouTube video of Stuart and Vivian Williams discussing this tune and playing a variety of different versions.  
~ Karen



Carole Vorce (District 4) playing the bowed dulcimer at Rogue Valley Retirement Center in Grants Pass.