

Tune of the Month

Tune of the Month Suggested by Melinda Grant (District 4)

This tune comes to us from Sarah Armstrong of Derry, Pennsylvania, America's first famous fiddler of the female persuasion. Born in 1833 of Scottish descent, her father and uncles all played the Appalachian music of the area; Sarah began fiddling at the age of 5. She called this one 'The Old Reel' and probably learned it from her Uncle Laney where she grows up. Today we just call it "Sarah Armstrong's Tune".



When she died in 1957 at the age of 74, few people in the Derry community noted the passing of Mrs. Sarah Armstrong and fewer yet remembered the joy she once brought to the community with her music. No one could have imagined that 50 years after her death, "Sarah Armstrong's Tune" would be heard on YouTube and in oldtime jams throughout the world.

Melinda Grant

Key: D
♩ = 90

Sarah Armstrong

(Sarah Armstrong's Tune)

*Traditional old-time
Arr. Pete Showman, Dave Barton*



Sarah Armstrong

Pennsylvania fiddler Sarah Armstrong played this tune around 1944 for Samuel Bayard, who published it in his collection "Hill Country Tunes".