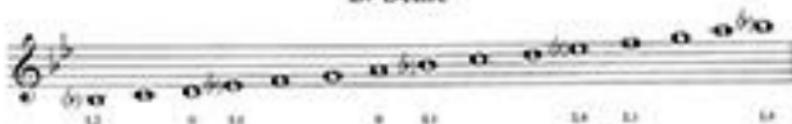


Lesson #43: A New Key!

If you have played violin for a few years, you have probably already played in B \flat . The key of B \flat is really no big deal. However, in the fiddle world I have noticed a peculiarity. Many fiddlers whom they refer to B \flat , talk like it's something hard and different and a mystery to them. I have noticed that fiddlers who have played many years in the open keys (D, G, A) and then tried B \flat sometimes had some difficulty. While as I have seen students who have only played a couple of years try B \flat and have no problem. I came to the conclusion that those who had played for years in the open keys simply got used to those finger patterns, and anything else felt strange.

Here is a B \flat scale written out so you can get used to the finger patterns in B \flat .

B \flat Scale



When you play in B \flat , be sure to not play an open "E" string, but a few fourth fingers on the "A" string.

Now we can use our B \flat playing skill to play one of my favorite waltzes, THE SATURDAY NIGHT WALTZ. I heard this years ago while playing in Canada and fell in love with it the very first time I heard it. I have had a lot of good luck with this waltz when I have played it in "old time" style country, because it has such a great danceable rhythm. "LORDAGS VALSEN" was the original name of this Norwegian waltz. This translates to "Saturday Waltz," but Americans added the word "Night" to it. It was made up by Axel Johnson in 1921, and was a favorite among Scandinavian-Americans during the 1920's and 1930's.

One of my "secrets" when I play this waltz is to put the "fat one" (a heavy emphasis on the first beat of every measure) throughout. This waltz already has great danceability, but the "fat one" brings it out even more. Listen to this danceability on your recording.

Ed

Lesson #53: Woodchoppers' Reel

Arrangement #1

I love every single tune in this book, but surely one of my favorites is WOODCHOPPERS' REEL. I have played it most of my fiddling life. It has served me well in regular contests, old time contests and in Canadian contests. My son Grant heard me play it a lot and, when he was 9 years old, it became one of his tunes.

Since we are already familiar with all of the techniques used in it, let's get started on the fun house tune.

Here's the basic tune as I hear it.

Key of D
Intro = 2 chops & 4 potatoes

Traditional
Arranged by
Carol Ann Wheeler

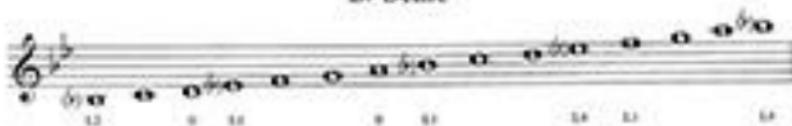
The music is written for a single melody line on a staff with a treble clef. Measures are numbered at the bottom of each staff. The first staff is the Intro, followed by Part 1, Part 2, another Part 1, and finally the Tag. The notation includes various弓 (bowed) and (unbowed) strokes, as well as slurs and grace notes.

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