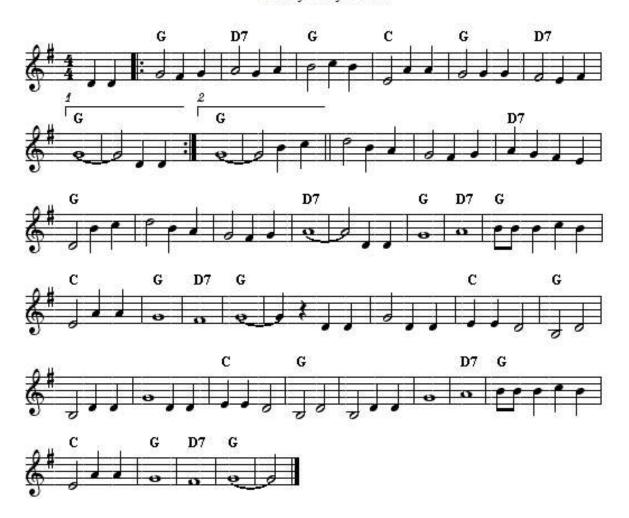
Grandfather's Clock

Henry Clay Work



1. My grandfather's clock was too tall for the shelf
So it stood ninety years on the floor
It was taller by half than the old man himself
But it weighed not a pennyweight more
It was bought on the morn on the day that he was born
It was always his treasure and pride
But it stopped, short, never to go again
When the old man died

Chorus:

Ninety years without slumbering
Tic toc tic toc
His life's seconds numbering
Tic toc tic toc
It stopped, short, never to go again
When the old man died.

In watching its pendulum swing to and fro
Many hours he had spent when a boy
And through childhood and manhood, the clock seemed to know
And to share both his grief and his joy

For it struck twenty-four when he entered at the door With a blooming and beautiful bride, But it stopped, short, never to go again When the old man died

Chorus

3 My grandfather said that of those he could hire
Not a servant so faithful he'd found,
For it kept perfect time and it had one desire
At the close of each day to be wound
At it kept to its place, not a frown upon its face
At its hands never hung by its side
But it stopped, short, never to go again
When the old man died

Chorus

4. It rang an alarm in the still of the night,
An alarm that for years had been dumb
And we knew that his spirit was pluming for flight
That his hour of departure had come
Still the clock kept the time
With a soft and muffled chime
As we silently stood by his side
But it stopped, short, never to go again
When the old man died

Chorus

"Grandfather's Clock" is a song written in 1876 by Henry Clay Work.

It is a standard of British brass bands and colliery bands and is also popular in bluegrass music.

Before this song became popular, floor standing clocks were known merely as tall case clocks or longcase clocks. They became known as "grandfather clocks" as a result of this song. The earliest known recording of this song was performed by Harry Macdonough and the Edison Quartet in 1905.

It was also recorded by Johnny Cash on Songs of Our Soil (1959), Tennessee Ernie Ford on Gather 'Round (1959), Bing Crosby on 101 Gang Songs (1961), John Fahey on Days Have Gone By (1967), The Country Gentlemen on On The Road (1963), The Seldom Scene on Live At The Cellar Door (1975), Miles Martin Folk Group on Miles Martin Folk Group (1971), Bill Staines With Guy Van Duser on Old Wood And Winter Wine (1977), David Grisman & Tony Rice on Tone Poems (1994), Trickett on Gently Down The Stream Of Time (1977) and many others.

Even though the autoharp is not an historically correct instrument to accompany this, it is so much fun to play that it my preferred accompaniment. I like playing it on the banjo in G but I like it better on the autoharp in F.