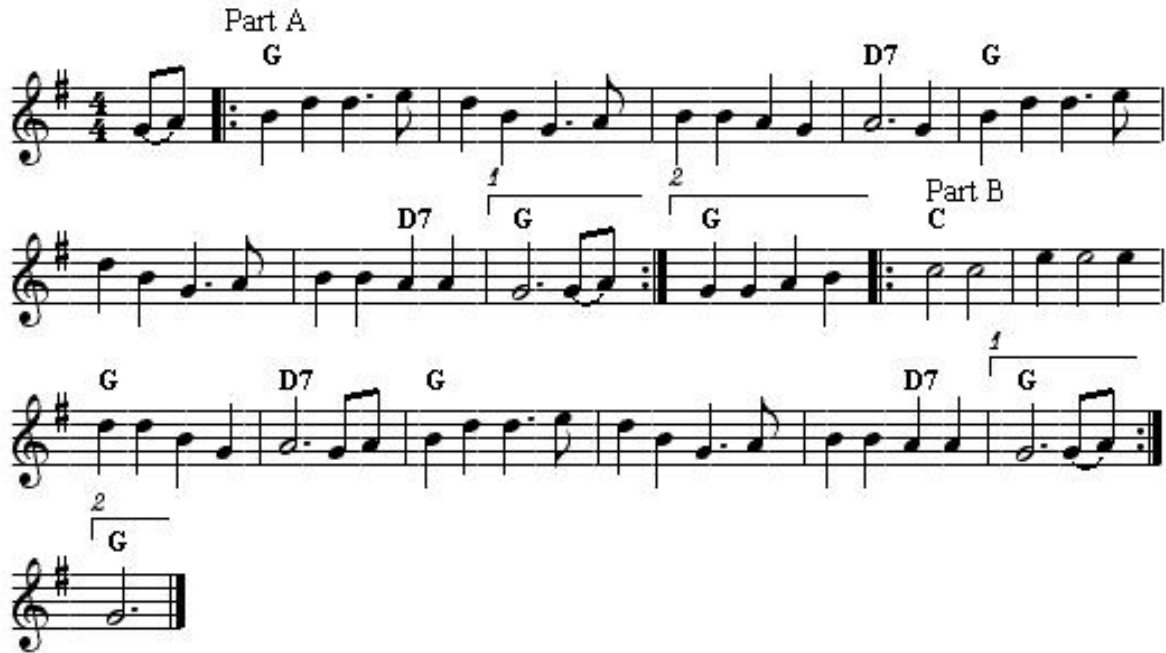


Oh Susanna!

Stephen Foster



1. I come from Alabama with my banjo on my knee
I'm going to Louisiana, my true love for to see
It rained all night the day I left
The weather it was dry
The sun so hot, I froze to death
Susanna, don't you cry

Chorus:

Oh, Susanna, oh don't you cry for me
For I come from Alabama with my banjo on my knee

2. I had a dream the other night when everything was still
I thought I saw Susanna a-coming down the hill
The buckwheat cake was in her mouth
The tear was in her eye
Says I, I'm coming from the south
Susanna, don't you cry
3. I jumped aboard de telegraph and trabbled down de ribber,
De 'lectric fluid magnified and killed five hundred nigger.
De bull-gine bust, de horse run off, I really thought I'd die
I shut my eyes to hold my breath,
Susanna, don't you cry.
4. I soon will be in New Orleans, and then I'll look around
And when I find Susanna I will fall upon de ground
And if I do not find her, dis darkie'll surely die
And when I'm dead and buried,
Susanna don't you cry.

Stephen Foster was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania. In 1846, he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio and became a bookkeeper with his brother's steamship company. While in Cincinnati, Foster wrote "Oh! Susanna", possibly for his men's social club. The song was first performed by a local quintet at a concert in Andrews' Eagle Ice Cream Saloon in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 11, 1847. It was first published by W. C. Peters & Co. in Cincinnati in 1848.

I play this in a medley with:

"Campton Races" - also by Stephen Foster

"Blue Tail Fly" - by Dan Emmett

Both are in this section.

Other songs by Stephen Foster in this section are:

"Camptown Races"

"Gentle Annie"

"Hard Times Come Again No More"

"Old Folks at Home"

As with most minstrel era songs which are now considered extremely politically incorrect, I choose not to sing the lyrics.