

## Yew Piney Mountain

The image displays a musical score for the fiddle tune "Yew Piney Mountain" in G major. The score is organized into two sections, A and B, each with two staves of music. Section A begins with a boxed letter 'A' above the first staff. The first staff of section A contains a repeat sign followed by a sequence of notes with guitar chords A, Em7, A, D, A, D, and A written above. The second staff of section A continues the melody with chords Em7, A, D, A, D, and A. Section B begins with a boxed letter 'B' above the first staff. The first staff of section B contains a sequence of notes with chords A, Em7, A, and Em7 written above. The second staff of section B continues the melody with chords A, D, A, D, and A. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

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"Yew Piney Mountain" is an American reel with irregular measures in A Mixolydian/Dorian. It is played in AEae (Burl Hammons) or DGdg (Harvey Sampson) fiddle tunings. The parts are played AAB (Krassen, Phillips) or AA'B (Reiner & Anick). "Yew Piney Mountain" is an archaic sounding, slightly irregular ('crooked'), modal melody (that fluctuates between dorian and mixolydian modes, or is in mixed mode, depending on the player), was in the repertoire of several older central West Virginia fiddlers.

It is related to the breakdown "Garfield's Blackberry Blossom".

Wilson Douglas, a Clay County, West Virginia, fiddler who learned the tune from his mentor French Carpenter, said it took him "five long years" to master his version of "Yew Piney Mountain" (although he also said this of "Walking in the Parlor").

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Stephen F. Davis' **The Devil's Box, vol. 29, No. 3, Fall 1995**, Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995) and Reiner & Anick's **Old Time Fiddling Across America** (1989).

It was recorded by Harvey Sampson and the Big Possum String Band on **Flat Foot in the Ashes** (1986/1994), Burl Hammons on **Old Time Music of Pocahontas County**, French Carpenter on **Elzic's Farewell**, Wilson Douglas on **Rounder Fiddle** (1990) and **The Right Hand Fork of Rush's Creek** (1975) and Reed Island Rounders on **Goin' Home** (2002).