

Hello banjo friends,

I'm not sure about you--but I'm not ready for this month to be over! Can we please rewind a few weeks?

Seriously, though, what a dream this workshop series has been for me, exploring some of my favorite old-time repertoire in my very favorite melodic clawhammer style, with all of you playing and smiling along. Conducting banjo workshops is the piece of being an instructor of old-time music that I love the most, and I'm endlessly grateful to you all for giving me the opportunity to present these Zoom workshops. Big kudos to Megan, too, for making all of the e-tech happen, for getting the word out about the workshops, and for keeping up with endless logistics-related correspondence. Having her at the helm really frees me to focus on the tunes and the instruction without needing to worry about all that other stuff....

Tonight's tunes were among the most user-friendly selections of the whole month, and I hope that it felt good to end our time together on a pretty doable note that still managed to throw some fun challenges our way. In the coming weeks/months/years, I certainly encourage you to spend plenty of time practicing whichever of this month's tunes particularly speak to you, but I also highly recommend that you spend time LISTENING to them without necessarily trying to play. Listen to my banjo audio, sure, but also listen to the fiddle versions, which usually deliver an even more complete and cohesive sense of the tune. To help jumpstart that process for this week's material...

...here are some examples of Jenny in the Cotton Patch:

-fiddler Clyde Davenport, from Wayne County, Kentucky, recorded in 1990: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/jenny-cotton-patch>

-fiddler Erynn Marshall, with Chris Coole on guitar, from their 2007 "Meet Me in the Music" duet album: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SccwS45cTsc>

-fiddler Clare Milliner, with Walt Koken on banjo, in a recent video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61bugdxCerA>

...and here are two nice takes on Rock Andy:

-fiddler Owen "Snake" Chapman, from Pike County, Kentucky, recorded in 1995: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/ill-learn-you-how-rock-andy>

-fiddlers Clare Milliner and Walt Koken, with their band the Orpheus Supertones, in the final round of competition at Clifftop 2009: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3OB4lyv9DE>

Looking a bit farther back, one of our classmates, Chris Reckling, recently alerted me to the existence of a great version of Cookhouse Joe played by fiddler Judy Hyman with Jeff Claus on banjo-uke, perfect for practicing against...as this tune was part of Judy and Jeff's edition of the "Slow Jam Fizz" series of play-along online old-time jams! Here is the link to the full jam; Cookhouse Joe shows up just before the 35-minute mark: <https://youtu.be/enhfrUxPFpo> While there, you might enjoy scrolling through the many other jams in this fun series.

Please keep in touch as you get to know the material better and as associated questions or thoughts come up. If I can be helpful to your banjo journey in any other way, please think of me as an all-purpose banjo resource. I'm only an email away!

In terms of instruction, stay tuned for future Zoom banjo workshop series offered through Nashville Acoustic Camps, and please don't hesitate to send "theme" suggestions Megan's or my way. We will probably do the next round sometime this fall. In the meantime or thereafter, I'm also happy to add anyone to my commitment-free waiting list for private online instruction, so please let me know if that interests you.

Thanks again for joining me this month! I couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable experience.

Cheers,
Adam