

Hello banjo friends,

What a delight to be back at these Zoom workshops together, and looking at some of my favorite and most-requested repertoire to boot! I'm thrilled to see many familiar faces from previous workshops alongside lots of new faces. A more enjoyable way to usher in the festive season I can't imagine...for the banjo-obsessed, anyway.

Enjoy working through the numerous challenges that Stillhouse presents while being comforted by the tune's short overall length and ear-catching melody. Even those who prefer to learn by ear may still get useful information from the attached tab, especially in the second and third measures of the A part where there are many eighth notes in a row produced by a larger-than-usual range of right- and left-hand maneuvers; seeing how these note values are indeed the same as one another, and seeing clearly WHICH move occurs WHERE, will hopefully help you make this tricky passage beautifully smooth with a bit of practice.

To expand your sense of how Stillhouse can be treated, enjoy listening to some of my favorite recorded settings linked below:

-fiddler Tommy Jarrell with Oscar Jenkins on fingerstyle banjo, recorded in 1968: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/cider-mill>

-fiddler Fred Cockerham with Kyle Creed on banjo and the rest of their legendary Camp Creek Boys ensemble, recorded in 1967: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX0ww0recnQ>

-fiddler Greg Hooven with his fine Backstep band, from a 1990 performance: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/cider-mill-1>

-fiddler Kirk Sutphin with a “tribute band” of sorts featuring Kevin Fore playing clawhammer banjo in the style of Fred Cockerham and Jeremy Stephens playing fingerstyle banjo a la Oscar Jenkins; Kirk himself is channeling Tommy Jarrell: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RrJ\\_srJdGU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RrJ_srJdGU)

-fiddler Bruce Molsky with an unlikely musical partner, Tony Trischka on banjo! This video was taken from a 2021 performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4t-gd7yuZ8>

-Cathy Fink plays banjo here in a setting inspired by Reed Martin's playing (whose own terrific recording seems unavailable online; otherwise I would share it as well), from her beautiful “Banjo Haiku” album from 1992: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1reZhMwEpE>

-here is Bruce Molsky once again, but this time on banjo, from his 2017 “Soon Be Time” album: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrzpuXSBLI>

Please never be shy about reaching out to me with questions, comments, or thoughts of a musical or pedagogical nature, whether ahead of next week's class or anytime thereafter. Questions, comments, or thoughts related to e-technology or logistics are better shared with Megan. We both stand ready and happy to help!

Cheers, Adam