

Hello banjo friends,

Is it just me, or did the past month go by in a flash? More workshop sessions ahead of us would be fun, but hopefully this shorter-form series will help you find time to really cement and personalize the material that we have covered together. Tunes that I arrange with the fretless gourd banjo in mind can appear simpler than they actually are; don't be startled if the unorthodox mechanics found at various points in these arrangements, or the tunes' musical nuances, take a while to fully crystallize.

The big challenge in Josie-O for most learners is the B part, specifically getting its many different maneuvers flowing smoothly from one to the next and keeping the eighth notes as rhythmically even as possible. Try revisiting the video from today's class so that you can play the B-part phrase loops along with me, rewinding and replaying as necessary, to really finesse this section. The attached tab may be helpful to monitor as you practice, too. Don't rush to increase your tempo until things are going well at a SLOW pace, and even then, increase it GRADUALLY!

Here are some nice recordings of Josie-O for your further enjoyment:

-fiddler Art Stamper, yet another track from his "Goodbye Girls, I'm Going to Boston" album from 2000: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xekoni7mjGo>

-fiddler Joseph Decosimo with a somewhat brighter-sounding setting, using source fiddler Charlie Acuff's alternate "Josie Girl" title. Both Joseph and Charlie start the tune form on what Art Stamper treats as the C part. This track comes from Joseph's excellent 2012 album "Sequatchie Valley": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWNWHqki-yM>

-fiddler Tatiana Hargreaves joins the Ephemeral Stringband on their 2014 "Land of Rest" album, again using Charlie Acuff's title and tune form: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UXyr12Icuk>

A few final housekeeping details:

-Please feel free to keep in touch with me as you continue to get to know this month's music. Different questions or observations are bound to come up as you dive deeper, and I would love to hear whatever is on your mind!

-If you would like suggested chord progressions for our workshop tunes to share with your friendly neighborhood guitarist (or other rhythm instrument player!), please let me know; I'm happy to provide chord charts.

-If correspondence with clawhammerist@yahoo.com seems to get misdirected, check your junk folder and/or contact me instead via adam@adamhurt.com

-While I still maintain a waiting list for private online banjo and fiddle instruction, that list is getting marginally shorter as some of my long-term students move on. If you have interest in the possibility of working together on your musical goals, please drop me a line; I can tell you more about how my online lessons work and add you to the commitment-free waiting list until my availability improves.

-Stay tuned for future Zoom workshops to be offered through Nashville Acoustic Camps! If you have ideas for workshop topics, I'm all ears.

Thanks so much for sharing your November with me! These Zoom workshops are a complete joy for me. Here's wishing you much banjo bliss, a delightful festive season, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Cheers,
Adam