

Hello banjo friends,

Well—this month has certainly Zoom-ed by (pun very much intended), at least for me! I'm sad to see our workshop on Southwest Virginia fiddle tunes wrap up but hopeful that it has been a pleasant way for you all to spend a few weeks absorbed in banjo and old-time music generally. Note to self: keep teaching tunes with abundant slides in these large-group online workshops! Seeing all of your fretting hands sliding en masse really helps me to imagine the sound of our banjo orchestra, which is such a fun thought.

As different as tonight's tunes seem on the surface, they actually have a number of qualities in common and should prove both enjoyable and productive to practice side by side. I strongly suggest familiarizing yourselves with both Emmett Lundy's fiddle recording of "Susanna Gal" (linked below) as well as my banjo audio recording, the better for you to understand my thinking behind the odd B-part mechanics and hear how the two instruments' B parts really do match up well. Consider practicing against my audio recording, slowed down to your comfort, to get our sounds synchronized. "Little Black Dog..." is fairly carefree in comparison, but watch out as you pick up your pace, as the A-part "wobble" may be difficult to keep clean and the B-part half-time motifs may have a tendency to come out faster than intended.

Here are my source tracks for both tunes, plus a newer take on one of them:

-fiddler Emmett Lundy, born in 1864 in Grayson County, plays "Susanna(h) Gal" in a most elegant manner in this 1941 recording: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/susannah-gal>

-our old friend from earlier in this workshop series, fiddler Luther Davis delivers a short-but-sweet rendition of "Little Black Dog Came Trotting Down the Road" in a field recording, probably captured in the early 1980s: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/little-black-dog-came-trotting-down-road>

-Philadelphians Palmer and Greg Loux, on fiddle and guitar, respectively, with the Run of the Mill Stringband try their hand at "Little Black Dog..." on their "Steal Aboard" album from 2005: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0ddJnSbXMw>

I have so enjoyed spending this month with you all, exploring some underplayed old-time tunes from a region that is very special to me. Many thanks for coming along for the ride! The correspondence that I have had with a number of you has been a particular treat, and I hope that no one feels that the time for such is now up. Please reach out as questions or observations occur to you, no matter how far into the future. You may find that the more you listen to and work with these (and any other) tunes, the more deeply you will come to understand and appreciate them!

Cheers,  
Adam

P.S. If you had fun with this workshop series and haven't participated in some (or any) of the previous workshops that I have conducted with the help of my friends at Nashville Acoustic Camps, you might be interested in taking advantage of their end-of-year sale on three of my previous four-session workshops: Kentucky Fiddle Tunes for Clawhammer Banjo (with

arrangements similar in style and difficulty to the Southwest Virginia series in a variety of tunings), Sawmill-Tuned Repertoire (all tunes in aEADE tuning), and Introduction to the Sandy River Belle Tuning (all tunes and exercises in gEADE tuning), each marked down to \$89 USD through December 31. Class videos, tabs, audio recordings, and followup notes are all part of the package, as was the case this month; the only difference is that you will not have access to the chat box for questions or comments—but you all know how to find me via email for the same! Here is the link where these workshops can be found and purchased: <https://www.nashvilleacousticcamps.com/Previous-Zoom-Workshops.php>

P.P.S. As I mentioned at the close of tonight's workshop, my commitment-free waiting list for private online instruction has seen ever-so-slight movement over the past few months, so if you are interested in hearing more about how such instruction could work and possibly joining the list (or if you are already on the list and wish to find out how much longer you may have to wait!), please contact me. I can also refer you to colleagues with current availability if you are seeking one-on-one instruction sooner than I am able to offer it.