

Captain George, Has Your Money Come

Traditional

Banjo Tuning: gCGCD

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C

G F G F

G C F G

C T I M T I M T I M T I M T I

T M T I M T I I T I M I T T I F G

C G C F

G C T I M T I M T I M T M I M T

G C

I I T I M T I T M T I M T I I T I M I T T

5 5 0 5 0 5 3→4 4 5 3→4 5 0 3→4 0 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 2→(5)

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The sheet music is organized into three systems. The first system starts with a Dm chord and contains measures 1-5. The second system contains measures 6-10, featuring G, C, and F chords. The third system contains measures 11-15, with G and C chords, and includes a '3.' section at the start. The piece concludes with a final measure. Various techniques like 'Po' (picking), 'Sl' (slide), and 'H' (hammer-on) are noted throughout. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5, and some notes are highlighted in yellow to indicate syncopation or emphasis.

This quirky fiddle tune was the very first recording by the Mississippi duo of fiddler William T. Narmour and guitarist Shell W. Smith, at a session for Okeh records on February 15, 1928. years later Narmours daughter would say that he had composed the tune himself, and only named it when asked for a title for the record label.

The most difficult hurdle in mastering this tune is internalizing the structure, which is a far cry from the standard AABB pattern of most fiddle tunes. Fundamentally, I guess it is ABABCB, with the B part a 12 beat flight of fancy which acts as a bridge to connect the other melodic strains. The A part has 21 beats, and qualifies as officially crooked, the C part has 30 beats, also squirrely. Expect to play it through quite a few times before it makes sense to you.

There are a few measures where the melody is highly syncopated, where the notes that need to be emphasized are not necessarily on the beat. I have highlighted the most important ones in yellow. In the B part of the tune, I use an inside roll, bringing the right hand middle finger of the right hand over to pick the 2nd string. I have included the right hand fingering in those locations.