

Cattle in the Cane

Traditional

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2018 by Donald J. Borchelt.
All rights reserved.

The image displays a guitar tablature for the piece "Cattle in the Cane". The notation is organized into six systems, each consisting of a six-string guitar staff and a bass line below it. The guitar staff includes fret numbers, accidentals (sharps, naturals, flats), and articulation marks such as slurs, accents, and breath marks (Po). The bass line shows fret numbers and chord changes. Chord changes are indicated by letters: C, Am, A, and G. Specific techniques are noted with "H H" (hammer-ons) and "Po" (pull-offs). The piece begins with a C chord and a 2-4 double bass line. It features various melodic lines with slurs and accents, and bass lines with triplets and slurs. The arrangement concludes with a G chord and a final melodic phrase.

The image displays a fiddle score for the traditional tune "Cattle in the Cane". The score is written on five systems of two staves each, representing the fiddle's two strings. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 on the upper staff and 0-10 on the lower staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. Chord symbols G, A, and Po are placed below the lower staff to indicate harmonic structure. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs, followed by a final measure with a fermata.

I learned this version of the old Texas fiddle tune from a 1968 recording of Bill Northcutt (1935-1992), for Stoneway Records. Benny Thomasson recorded the tune for County Records around the same time. The tune, in the key of A, is unusual in that one part is in Aeolian mode (modern minor), while the other is in Mixolydian mode. Northcutt starts the tune with the minor part, while Thomasson starts on the major.