

# Fortune

Traditional

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The musical score is written for guitar in 2/4 time. It consists of several systems of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score includes various fret numbers (0, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14) and chord diagrams for D, A7, G, and D. Performance instructions include 'H' for hammer-ons, 'SI' for slides, and '1/4' for quarter notes. There are also first and second endings marked with '1.' and '2.'. A variation section is indicated by a circled cross symbol and the text 'Variation See notes'. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

The image shows fiddle tablature for the tune 'Fortune - Traditional'. It consists of three systems of music. The first system starts at measure 31 and includes notes with fret numbers (0, 5, 2, 5, 5, 4, 5, 0, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 0, 2) and techniques like 'Sl' (slide) and 'Po' (pull-off). Chords G, A7, and D are indicated. The second system starts at measure 35 and includes notes with fret numbers (1, 0, 2, 0, 2, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 9, 10) and techniques like 'H' (hammer-on) and 'Sl'. Chords G, A7, and D are indicated. The third system starts at measure 39 and includes notes with fret numbers (0, 0, 0, 2, 0). A chord D is indicated. A diamond symbol is also present.

This is a tune from the Galax area that fiddler Tommy Jarrell made popular. He learned the tune from his father. On the fiddle, the first two measures of the B part consists mostly of shuffling around the D note, but I have borrowed some notes from BHO members Darren Jackson and Mike Russell, who both posted nice clean versions on their homepages. I learn a lot of notes from clawhammer players.

The first four measures of the variation of the A part, measures 21 through 25, use harmonics. These are the fret numbers followed by the little diamond. You get a harmonic by lightly touching the string directly above the fret without actually fretting it, and then lifting the finger right after you have plucked the string, to allow it to ring. You basically pulling out the overtones, without sounding the fundamental note. It gives that clear bell sound that is sometimes called "chimes." This works best when playing solo or with one or two other pickers, it will get lost in a big jam.

The first three measures of the B part variation, measures 30 through 33, use a steady forward roll to mimic the fiddle shuffle. A triple feel of the forward roll works well against the shuffle sound, even in old-time music, but I try not to overuse it.

Tommy Jarrell sang words to this old tune:

Once I had a fortune, all locked up in my trunk,  
I lost it all a-gambling one night when I got drunk.

Wish I had a pretty little horse, corn to feed him on,  
And a pretty little wife to be at home, and feed him when I'm gone.

I've heard some folks sing a chorus:

Fortune I had it, fortune I lost it,  
Fortune I lost it one night when I was drunk.