

Girl I Left Behind Me

Traditional

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This guitar tablature is for the song "Girl I Left Behind Me" in the key of D major and 2/4 time. The piece is arranged for guitar and includes various techniques such as bends, slides, and hammer-ons. The notation is organized into systems, each with a measure number and a key signature above it. The first system (measures 1-5) is in D major. The second system (measures 6-9) is in A7. The third system (measures 10-13) is in D major. The fourth system (measures 14-17) is in A7. The fifth system (measures 18-21) is in D major. The sixth system (measures 22-25) is in G major. The seventh system (measures 26-29) is in A7. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 29.

1. D 2. D

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2. D D

30

Now, I admit, this is a tune that is almost always played out of G or A, not D. An e-mail friend once asked me if I had an arrangement in D, because she was playing the tune with a dulcimer player who was using that key. Initially, I worked it up just as a favor, but it fell nicely into place in D tuning, and I immediately jammed it into my regular repertoire of tunes. It just sounds a lot more "old-timey" than the more melodic version I was playing out of open G tuning.

There are a number of fourth string drone notes in this arrangement, don't pick them too hard. Also, pay particular attention to the movement from the beginning of measure 5 to the middle of measure 6; your left hand should essentially glide up the neck, sliding and hammering as called for, in a very smooth, effortless movement. This is the closest thing to zen I will reach in this lifetime.

In the open position variation of the A part, you'll notice that I basically run out of low notes, so I temporarily transpose the melody up an octave in measure 23, and again in measures 27 and 28. Do that without raising an eyebrow, and nobody will even notice. Someday, though, I'm going to experiment with a six string neck, with the extra bass string, and see if I can find those low notes. As an aside, when you make the transition to the low A part, the tablature actually jumps from measure 20 to measure 22. Follow the MIDI playback to fix any confusion.