

# Going Down the River

Traditional

Arrangement (c) copyright 2010 by Donald J. Borchelt

G (A) C (D) G (A)

D7 (E7) G (A) C (D) G (A)

D7 (E7) G (A) C (D) G (A)

D7 (E7) G (A) C (D) G (A)

1. D7 (E7) G (A) Up the neck break C (D) G (A) D7 (E7) G (A)

C (D) G (A) D7 (E7) G (A)

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D7 (E7) G (A)

27 <sup>Sl</sup> 7 → 9 8 9 9 | C (D) 10 9 10 16 | G (A) 15 14 12 14 9 | D7 (E7) G (A) 0 9 10

31 <sup>Sl</sup> 7 → 9 8 9 9 | C (D) 10 9 10 16 | G (A) 15 14 12 14 9 | D7 (E7) G (A) 0 9 10

2. D7 (E7) G (A)

35 H 0 0 | 0 2 0

The image shows fiddle tablature for the song 'Going Down the River'. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 27-30) starts with a slide from 7 to 9, followed by notes 8, 9, 9, 10, 9, 10, 16, 15, 14, 12, 14, 9, 0, 9, 10. The second system (measures 31-34) follows the same pattern. The third system (measures 35-36) shows a double bar line, then a measure with a 'H' (hammer-on) on the first string (0-2) and a slide on the second string (0-0), and a final measure with a slide on the first string (0-2) and a note on the second string (0).

I learned this elegantly simple tune from the playing of fiddler Mike Roguska, at one of the Monday night jams at Sandy's Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It comes originally from Kentucky fiddler J.P. Fraley, and is on his landmark Rounder LP (0037), *Wild Rose of the Mountain*. Fraley sings a few words, the first two lines follow the A part, the second two the B part.

Oh, my little girl, if you don't do better,  
Put you on a boat, gonna send you down the river.

Boat began to sink, my heart began to quiver,  
Oh, my little girl, you're goin' down the river.

Andrew Kuntz, in his encycopedic *Fiddler's Companion* web site, says that this tune is the same as the tune *Little Dutch Girl*. Though perhaps similar, I don't believe they are the same tune.