

Highlander's Farewell

Traditional

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Chord chart: Am G Am

Staff 1: c2, D, A, G, D, g, 5c2. Fingering: 2, 4. Slurs: 8→10, 3→5.

Chord chart: G Am G Am

Staff 2: Slurs: 3→5, 8→10, 8→10, 3→5.

Chord chart: G Am G Am

Staff 3: Po, Slurs: 3→5, 3→5.

Chord chart: G Am G Am

Staff 4: Slurs: 3→5, 8→10, 8→10, 3→5.

Chord chart: Em G Am G

Staff 5: Po, H, Slurs: 5→7, 10→12, 3→5, 10→12.

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The image displays three systems of banjo tablature for the piece 'HGhlander's Farewell'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with six lines representing strings. Chord names (Em, G, Am) are placed above the staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 0-4 on the strings. Slurs and accents are used to group notes. A yellow highlight is placed under the first measure of the second system. The piece concludes with two endings, labeled '1.' and '2.', each with its own chord and fingering.

This spritely modal tune comes from old time fiddler Emmett Lundy (1864 - 1953) of Grayson County, Virginia, who was recorded in August, 1941 by Alan Lomax for the Library of Congress. He was a disciple of the great but unrecorded Galax fiddler Greenberry Leonard (1810 - 1892), from whom he likely learned this tune.

A few notes about my banjo setting. The tuning is a variant of standard open G, with the 2nd string tuned down a whole tone from B to A. Since the tune is fiddled in A modal, the banjo will have to be capoed on the 2nd fret, or tuned up accordingly. The very first measure opens with a syncopated rhythm, and it is important to emphasize that second note of the measure, found on the open 5th string, for the melody to sound right. The note is highlighted in yellow. That phrase is repeated throughout the A part. In this setting, I have lowered the B part an entire octave from where it is played on the fiddle. The tune can be rendered up the neck in the fiddle octave, but it sacrifices a lot of the drive of the tune. Sometimes when you turn a fiddle tune into a banjo tune, you have to move things around.