

# John's Tune

From the fiddling of Ralph Roberts

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The musical score is written for guitar in 2/4 time. It consists of 24 measures across four systems. The fretboard diagrams show fingerings for the left hand, with numbers 1-4 indicating fingers. The right hand part includes various techniques such as slurs, accents, and specific fretting patterns. Chord progressions are indicated by letters G, C, D7, and H above the staff. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 are placed at the beginning of their respective systems.

System 1 (Measures 1-4):  
Measures 1-2: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0.  
Measure 3: C chord, notes 1, 0, 2, 0.  
Measure 4: G chord, notes 0, 2, 0, 0.

System 2 (Measures 5-8):  
Measure 5: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 6: D7 chord, notes 5, 0, 0, 0. Includes a pull-off (Po) over notes 5 and 0.  
Measure 7: G chord, notes 1, 0, 0, 0. Includes a pull-off (Po) over notes 1 and 0.  
Measure 8: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.

System 3 (Measures 9-12):  
Measure 9: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 10: D7 chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 11: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 12: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.

System 4 (Measures 13-16):  
Measure 13: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 14: D7 chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 15: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 4 and 7.  
Measure 16: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 4 and 7.

System 5 (Measures 17-20):  
Measure 17: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 1 and 3.  
Measure 18: D7 chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 1 and 3.  
Measure 19: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 1 and 3.  
Measure 20: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 1 and 3.

System 6 (Measures 21-24):  
Measure 21: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 22: D7 chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 23: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.  
Measure 24: G chord, notes 0, 0, 0, 0. Includes a slur (Sl) over notes 2 and 4.

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G                    D7                    G                    2. G

I picked up this compelling little tune from West Virginia old time fiddler Ralph Roberts, while playing with him the last evening at Clifftop, 2012. It doesn't really have a second part, the last strain of the melody is just repeated a couple of extra times to serve as a bridge back to the top. This is what Ralph had to say about it: "This is the first tune my grandpaw always played. He loved this tune, but he didn't know the name for it, so we just named it John's Tune, because John was the name of my grandpaw."

Note the ghost hammer in measure 9. The ghost note in parentheses is not played, it is there to make sure the hammer-on sounds in the MIDI playback. A ghost hammer is a hammer onto a string that has not first been picked by the right hand. Since it is not already agitated, you have to smack it pretty good with the left hand finger, to make sure that it sounds loud enough.