Keys to the Kingdom

Traditional

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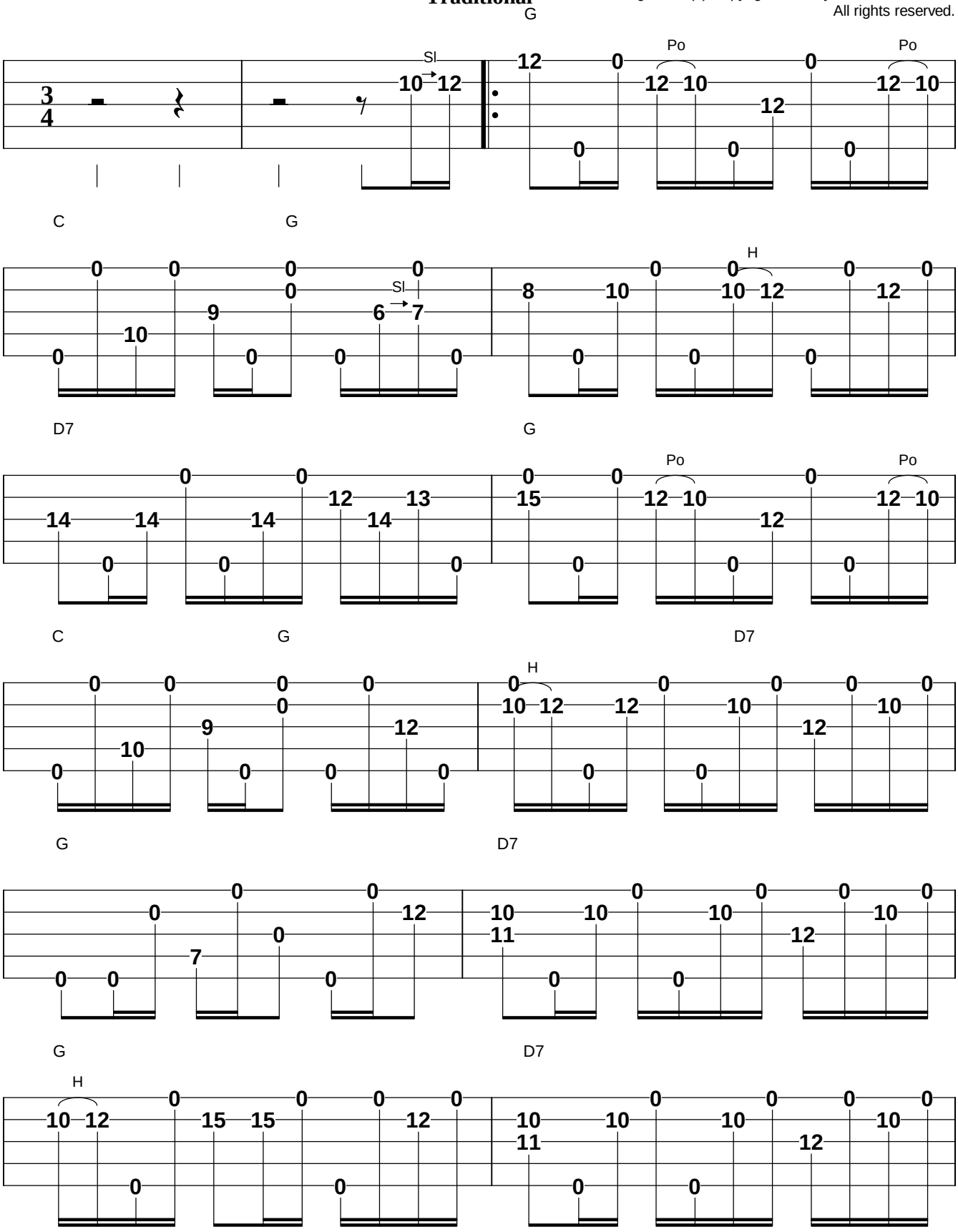

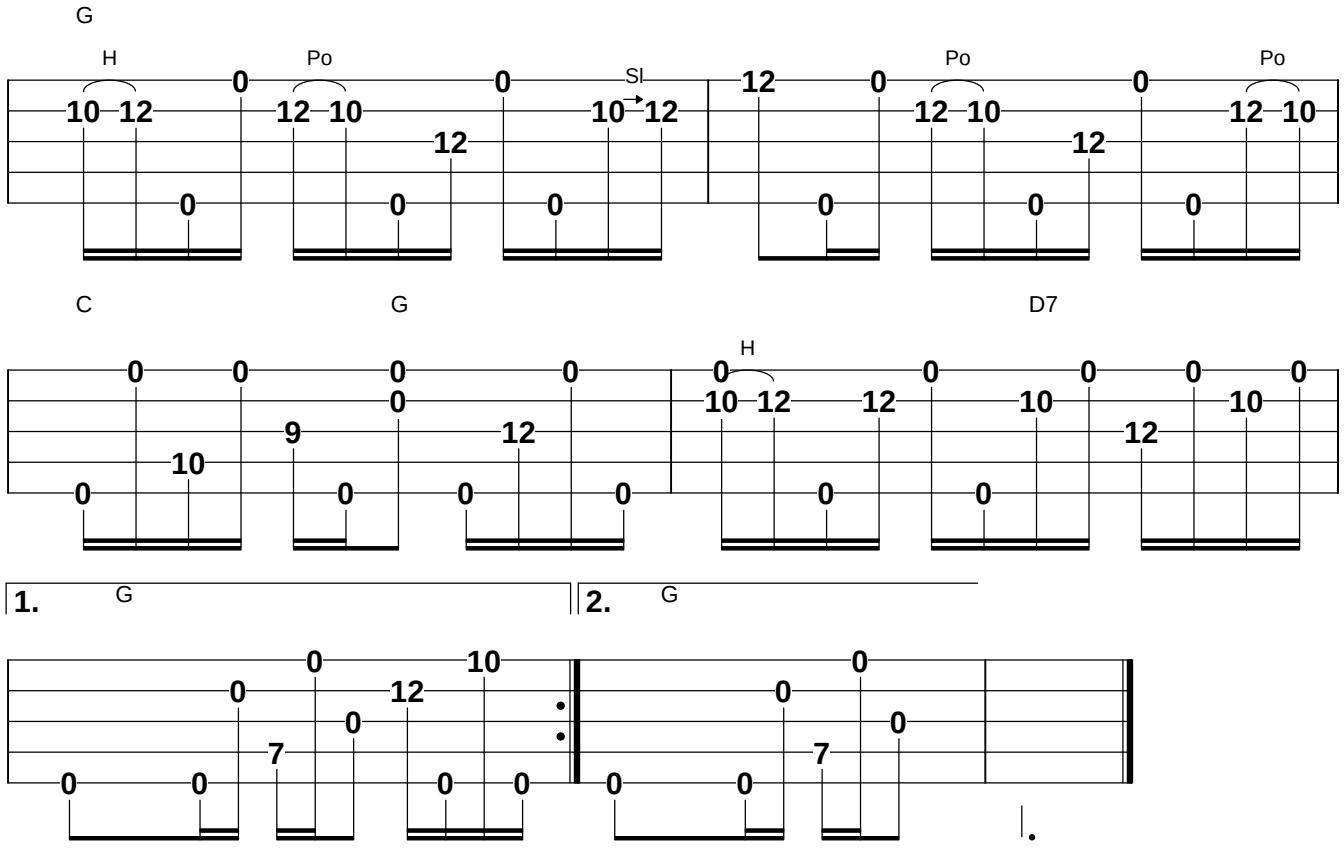

In her treatise of the fiddling tradition in the mountains of West Virginia, fiddler and ethnomusicologist Erynn Marshall explores in depth the connection between fiddling and vocal traditions, and how fiddle tunes were songs were routinely transformed into fiddle tunes, and vice-versa. Braxton County fiddler Melvin Wine (1909-2003) was particularly fond of converting hymns into instrumental performance pieces, and according to Marshall, and had forty-five hymns in his active repertoire. This waltz time tune is one of them. Wine would take the basic hymn melody, fancy it up by employing some of his characteristic fiddling moves, and speed up the tempo slightly. He retains the basic verse/refrain, AB structure of the original hymn. Wine told her, "I think a lot of the tunes I play is really good for the soul in a person..."