

# Maggots in the Sheep Hide

Traditional

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Prelude D

Musical staff 1: D A F# D A, 4/4. Notes: 0, 5, 8, 8, 7. Slurs: 5-8, 8-7. A '0' is written above the staff. A bracket under the bottom line indicates an open position break.

Open position break

Musical staff 2: Notes: 0, 9, 8, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4. Slurs: 9-8, 4-5. A '0' is written above the staff.

Musical staff 3: Notes: 0, 0, 1-0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 2, 4, 0, 7, 9, 8, 0, 0, 0, 0. Slurs: 1-0, 2-4, 7-9. A '0' is written above the staff.

Musical staff 4: Notes: 0, 0, 4, 5, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1-0, 0, 0, 2. Slurs: 4-5, 1-0. A '0' is written above the staff.

Musical staff 5: Notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 7, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0. Slurs: 7-8, 2-4. A '0' is written above the staff.

Musical staff 6: Notes: 0, 0, 0, 5, 5, 4, 0, 5, 0, 3, 5, 0, 0, 0. Slur: 3-5. A '0' is written above the staff.

17 G D A7 ⊕

1. D | 2. D Up the neck break Harmonics

20 G D A7 D Harmonics

23 Harmonics G D A7

26 1. D | 2. D

29 G

31 10 → 12 12 12 14 14 12 14

Detailed description of the guitar tablature: The piece is written in standard guitar notation with six strings and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is divided into measures, with measure numbers 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, and 31 indicated at the start of each line. Chord diagrams (G, D, A7) are placed above the staff. Fingerings (1, 2, 4) and techniques (H for hammer-on, Sl for slide, Po for pull-off) are noted. A 'Up the neck break' is indicated between measures 19 and 20. Harmonics are marked with a diamond symbol (◊). A 1/4 note slide is shown in measure 31. The piece concludes with a circled cross symbol (⊕) at the end of the first line.

The image shows musical notation for a fiddle tune. It consists of three systems of staves, each with a treble and bass line. The first system starts at measure 34 and includes a 'Harmonics' section. The second system starts at measure 37 and includes a 'D' chord symbol. The third system starts at measure 40 and includes a 'D' chord symbol. The notation includes various fret numbers (0, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17), slurs, and a double bar line with repeat dots. Chord symbols 'D', 'A7', and 'G' are placed above the staves. A circled 'D' symbol is located below the first system.

This is a tune from western Pennsylvania fiddler Sarah Armstrong, as transcribed by musicologist Samuel Bayard in his Hill Country Tunes collection, published in 1944. I first heard this tune a few years ago when Linda Henry and Jerry Dallal played it at the weekly Sunday night old time music jam at the Skellig, in Waltham, Massachusetts. Bayard states that "a notable feature of this dance air is its short three-note prelude, which is never played except at the very start, and is left out of all subsequent repetitions."

If you are wondering about the odd title, apparently infestation of living sheep by blowfly (*Lucilia cuprina*) maggots is a common agricultural problem. The disease is called fly strike, and if not immediately treated can cause the animal an agonizing death. Doesn't seem to fit with the happy tune, but go figure.