Poor Little Mary, Sitting in the Corner

Traditional

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Page 1 / 4
This unusual tune comes from the playing of fiddler Enos Canoy (1909-1970), of Magee, Simpson County, Mississippi, recorded for the Library of Congress in May, 1939 by Herbert Halpert and Abbott Ferriss. Canoy was accompanied fellow fiddler Jim Myers beating straws on the fiddle for percussion. On Canoy's original recording, the fiddle is cross-tuned AEAE, and played in the key of A, but most fiddlers today play it in G, standard tuning.

In the B part of the up the neck break, I bring my thumb over to fret the 5th string at the 12th fret, and later at the 17th fret. I technique I rarely use anymore, but I thought it worked well here with the unusual tonality of this high part.