Sarah Armstrong's Tune

Traditional

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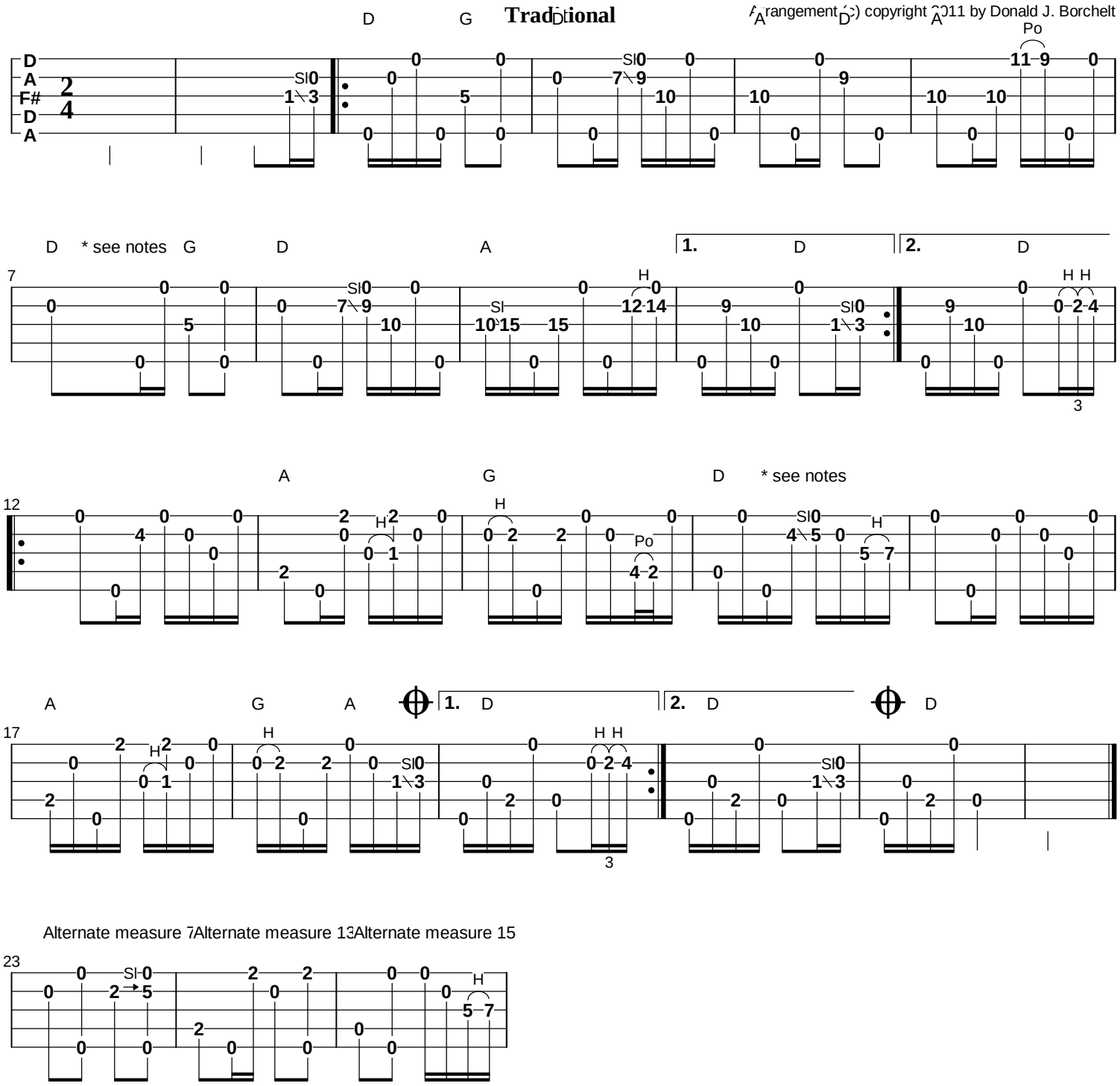

Alternate measure 7 Alternate measure 13 Alternate measure 15

Sarah Armstrong was a western Pennsylvania fiddle player who was the source of more than one-third of the tunes in Samuel Bayard's landmark collection, Hill Country Tunes, Instrumental Folk Music of Southwestern Pennsylvania, published in 1944 by the American Folklore Society. The original title is lost to history, it is simply called "Old Reel" in the collection, or sometimes "Old Reel #33," from the number of the tune in the work. Bayard's now out of print collection has been posted on the interent; the link is provided on my website links page.

I have provided a few alternate measures at the end of the tab. Measure 15 in the main tab has a syncopated rhythm, with the 2nd and 5th notes getting extra emphasis. This is how you often hear it today, but it was played straight in the original Bayard transcription, which is reflected in the alternate phrasing, found at measure 25.