

St. Anne's Reel

Traditional

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The musical score for "St. Anne's Reel" is presented in standard guitar notation with tablature. The piece is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, and 26 indicated at the start of their respective lines. Chord diagrams are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. The chords used include D, G, A7, and Em. The tablature includes various techniques such as hammer-ons (H), pull-offs (Po), slides (Sl), and bends (B). Measure 2 starts with a D chord and a 2/4 time signature. Measure 6 introduces an A7 chord. Measure 10 shows a first and second ending structure. Measure 14 features an Em chord. Measure 18 includes a key signature change symbol (a circle with a cross) and a first and second ending. Measure 22 has a G chord. Measure 26 concludes with a G and A7 chord, followed by a first and second ending. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

30

34

38

42

46

1. D 2. D Em

A7 (banjo plays F# minor position) D Em

A7 (banjo plays F# minor position) D 2. A7 D D

I've always thought of this as a French Canadian tune, but now you hear it just about everywhere, even in the bluegrass repertoire. This arrangement uses a lot of left hand technique, hammers, pull-offs and slides, to obtain the melody. The pull-off in measure 5 could also be done as a trill, a rapid hammer/pull-off done in succession.

Singer/songwriter David Mallett has written a song called the Ballad of St. Anne's Reel, which has been recorded by a variety of performers, from John Denver to Gordon Bok.

He said "I've heard that tune before somewhere but I can't remember when,
 Was it on some other friendly shore, did I hear it on the wind,
 Was it written on the sky above, I think I heard it from
 someone I love,
 But I never heard it sound so sweet since then.

In the up the neck variation of the A part, in measures 28 and 29, an open second string is plucked as part of a clawhammer-like rhythmic pattern. This note should be played very lightly, or it will clang.