

West Fork Gals

Traditional

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D A7

D A7

6 D A7

1. D 2. D G

10 A7 D G

14 A7 D G

18 A7 D

22 A7 D D D

26

The image shows a guitar tablature for the song "West Fork Gals". It is written in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is in a traditional style, with an arrangement by Donald J. Borchelt. The tablature is organized into systems, each with a measure number on the left. Chord diagrams for D, A7, G, and F# are placed above the corresponding measures. The notation includes fret numbers (0-12), accidentals (sharps and naturals), and articulation marks such as slurs, accents, and breath marks. A capo is indicated by a circle with a crosshair symbol above the staff at measure 18. The piece concludes with a double bar line at measure 26.

A lot of musicians first learned this tune from the recordings of the Fuzzy Mountain String Band and the Hollow Rock String Band, among the early records put out by Rounder Records in the mid-seventies, where we first heard a lot of the West Virginia tunes played by the Hammons family and Henry Reed. As Dwight Diller says, this music is all about rhythm, something you have to catch.

The A part of this arrangement (which may actually be the B part, I don't remember) is pretty straightforward. The first two measures of the B part, measures 12 and 13, are a little tricky. In measure 12, the fifth string is picked just as that long slide between frets 7 and 9 is arriving, and you have to quickly fret the 10th fret on the third string, to catch that melody note. Now, however, your left hand is positioned to make the melodic figure and hammer at the end of the measure. Tucked into the middle of all of this movement is an open fourth string drone note, which should be only lightly picked.

The up-the-neck variation of the A part makes liberal use of harmonics, which again are marked with a small diamond.