

Wildwood Flower

Traditional

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2003, 2007 by Donald J. Borchelt.
All rights reserved.

This sheet music is for a fingerstyle guitar arrangement of the traditional song 'Wildwood Flower'. It is written in 2/4 time and features a variety of chords and techniques. The key signature is one flat (F major/D minor). The music is divided into measures, with measure numbers 6, 10, 14, 18, 23, and 28 indicated at the start of their respective lines. Chord changes are marked with 'C' and 'G7'. Techniques such as slides (Sl), hammer-ons (H), pull-offs (Po), and double stops (2, 4) are used throughout. The notation includes standard guitar symbols like '0' for open strings and numbers for fretted notes. A first ending bracket is shown above measures 18-22.

32

H F C

G7 C

36

Sl 2>4 H Po

G7 C

41

G7

45

C

49

F

C

53

G7

C

2.

57

This is the 19th Century popular tune that was reinvented as a country standard by the Carter Family, in their earliest Bristol recordings. This setting is in Double C tuning, the same tuning I use for Billy in the Lowground. There is much use of the backward roll, which adds a lyrical, lilting quality to the piece. An especially challenging figure is found in measure 5, and repeated in 10 and 19. Note the light slide on the third string between frets 7 and 9.

This arrangement includes a simple harmony part which makes use of long, flowing forward rolls that follow the simple guitar melody. Harmony parts in traditional music need not be rigid, tightly parallel linear structures, they can more heterophonic, using the traditional picking patterns in the same way that we construct melody lines from those patterns, with the simple harmonic notes imbedded within the arpeggios or other picking pattern structures. If you work at it, its possible to become fairly fluent at improvising harmonies within the patterns, which is what this arrangement is meant to depict.