Yew Piney Mountain

Traditional

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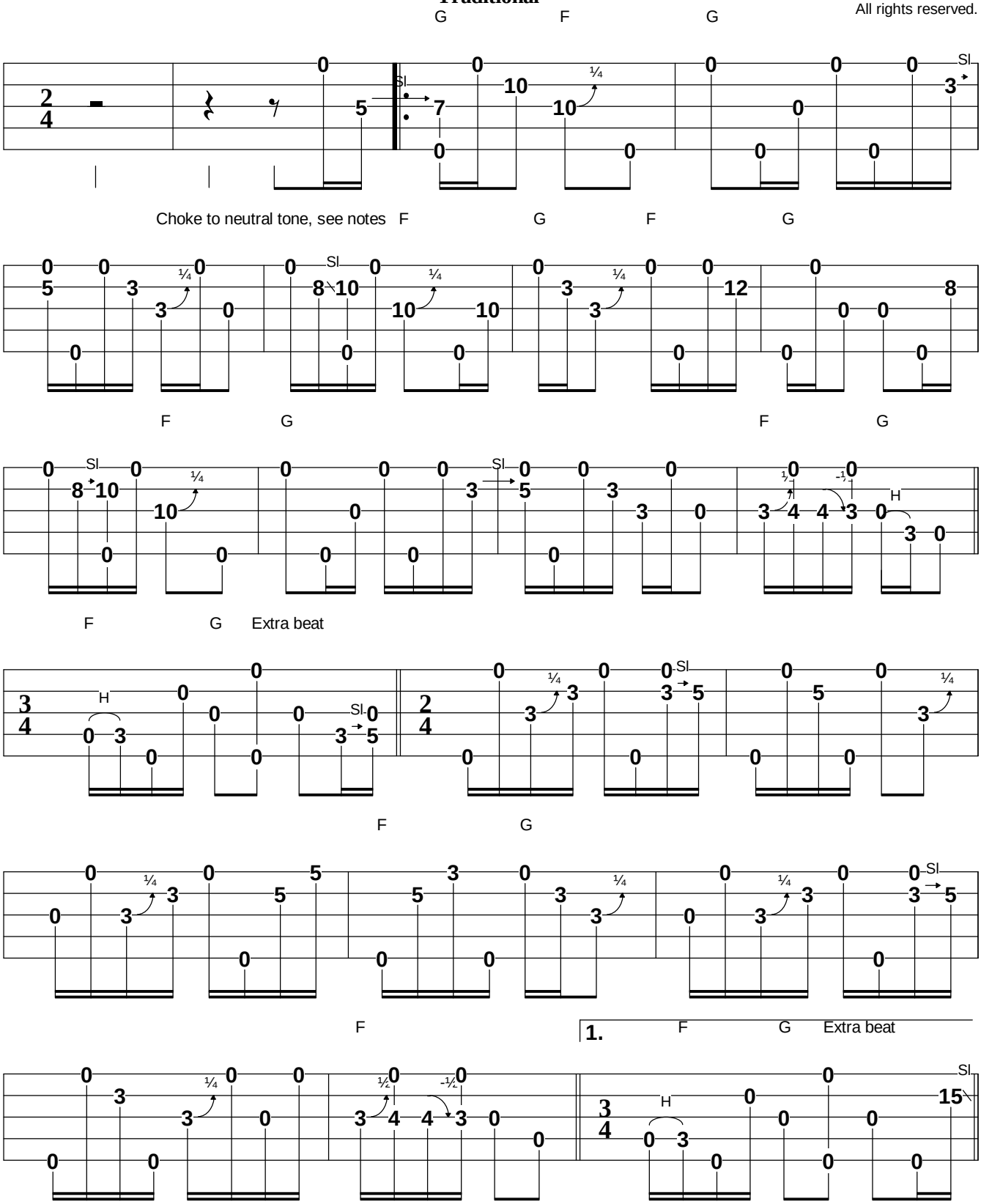
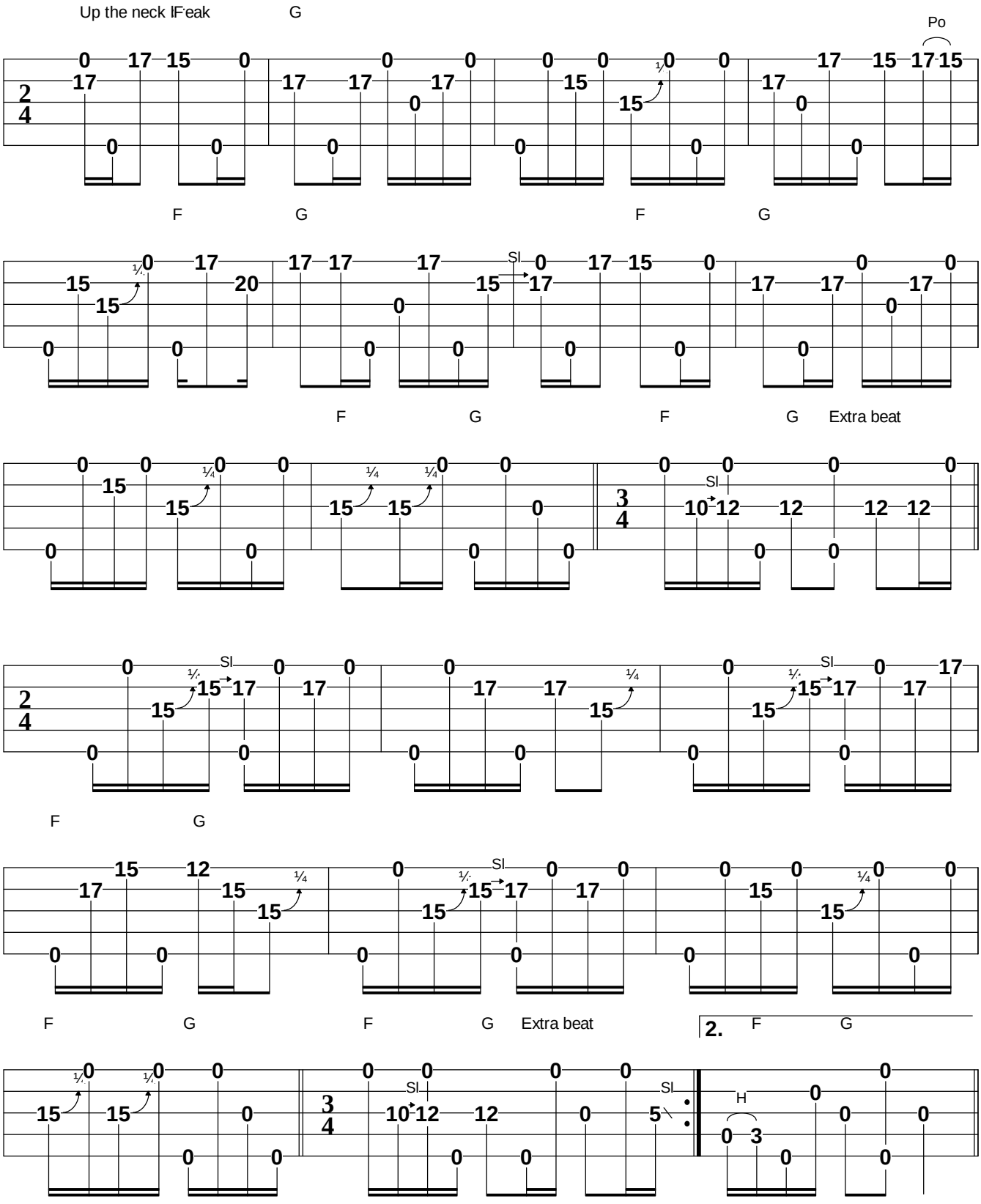
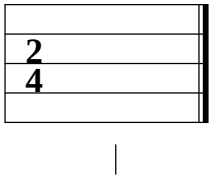



Up the neck I F eak
G
Po
F
G
F
G
F
G
Extra beat
F
G
F
G
Extra beat
2.
F
G



Yew Piney Mountain is a tune that can be found throughout West Virginia, with a substantial amount of variation among the fiddlers who play it. This version of comes from Nicut, West Virginia fiddler Lester McCumbers (1921-2015), whose unique versions of many of the old tunes like this one reveal an unrestrained melodic and
rhythmic freedom that has very ancient roots. When McCumbers cross tunes in G for Yew Piney Mountain (GDgd), and when he plays the third degree of the scale, he generally hits a neutral tone somewhere between the Bb and the B, sometimes closer to the flatted note and sometimes closer to the major third. I decided that it sounded best in most places to hit the Bb and immediately choke upwards a quarter tone or more to best reach for the tone that McCumbers gets with his performance. When I am using my semi-fretless banjo, I can nail the note better without choking, at least in the open position break.