

Going Up To Hamburg

Traditional

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2021,
by Donald J. Borchelt

Em

DAGDg

2 4

3 0 0 2 0 2

0 3 0 0 0 2 2

0 0 0 2 2

0 0 0 2

G Em

5

3 0 0 2 0 2

0 0 0 0 0 0

3 0 0 2 0 2

0 0 0 2 0 2

G C

9

3 0 0 2 0 2

0 0 0 0 0 0

3 0 0 2 0 2

0 0 0 0 0 0

G D G C

13

SI 9 12 14 7 9 0

0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0

SI 10 9 10

7 9 0 0

G D G

1. Bridge Em

17

SI 9 12 14 7 9 0

0 0 0 0 0 0

3 7 9 9 9 9

4 0 0 0 0 0

2 3 4 4 4 3

4 3 4 4 3

2 2 2 2

SI 2 0 0 2

3 4 0 2 2

G Em

2. Bridge Em

21

3 7 9 9 9 9

4 0 0 0 0 0

2 3 4 4 4 3

4 0 0 0 0 0

2 2 2 2

SI 2 0 0 2

3 4 0 2 2

G Em

25

0 0 0 2 0 2

0 0 0 0 0 0

3 0 0 2 0 2

0 0 0 0 0 0

3 0 0 2 0 2

0 0 0 2 0 2

29

33

37

41

This quirky tune comes from fiddler John Hatcher (1886-1958) of Tishominho County, Mississippi. It was recorded by Herbert Halpert on a field trip for the Library on Congress in 1939. Hatcher holds the screaming Em bridge at the end of the high part for five beats, the first time he plays it, and for seven beats when he is singing along with it. The original recording is only 46 seconds long, but it includes some quick lyrics, sung to the low part:

Goin' up to Hamburg, pretty little lady,
 Goin' up to Hamburg, yes I am.
 Goin' up to Hamburg, pretty little lady,
 Goin' up to Hamburg, get me a dram.

I included the vocal part as a mandolin break, just to give it some of the feel of Hatcher's quirky performance. I have extended the setting to include a third repeat; it seems a little short otherwise. There is a nice version recorded by Mike Bryant and Paul Brown, recorded in 2018. They keep the screaming bridge to four beats.