

Sol Carpenter's Tune

Traditional

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The diagram shows a fretless guitar fingerboard with six strings. The top string is labeled 'D', the second 'A', the third 'F#', the fourth 'D', and the fifth 'a'. The time signature is 2/4. The piece is in the key of D major. The notation includes fret numbers (0, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19) and various techniques such as slides (SI), bends (6 → 8), and grace notes (Po). Chord symbols (C, D, A, H) are placed above the staff. The piece is divided into measures of 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 measures. A first ending bracket labeled '1. D' spans measures 17-19. The piece concludes with a final measure at measure 24.

29

C D

33

A D 2. D

I learned this simple 8 measure tune from a video performance by a great young fiddler named Henry Barnes, from Washington Court House, Ohio. The tune is in Mixolydian mode. This is what Barnes had to say about the source: "Some folks have asked about the tune, so I would like to tell what I know... I learned it from Bobby Taylor. He learned it from his father, Lincoln Taylor. Lincoln learned it from his father, John Clinton Taylor. John learned it from Sol Carpenter, the famed fiddler who we are told was released from imprisonment after a fiddler contest at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio." I have also heard it called The Old Sol Carpenter Tune.