St. Anne's Reel

Traditional

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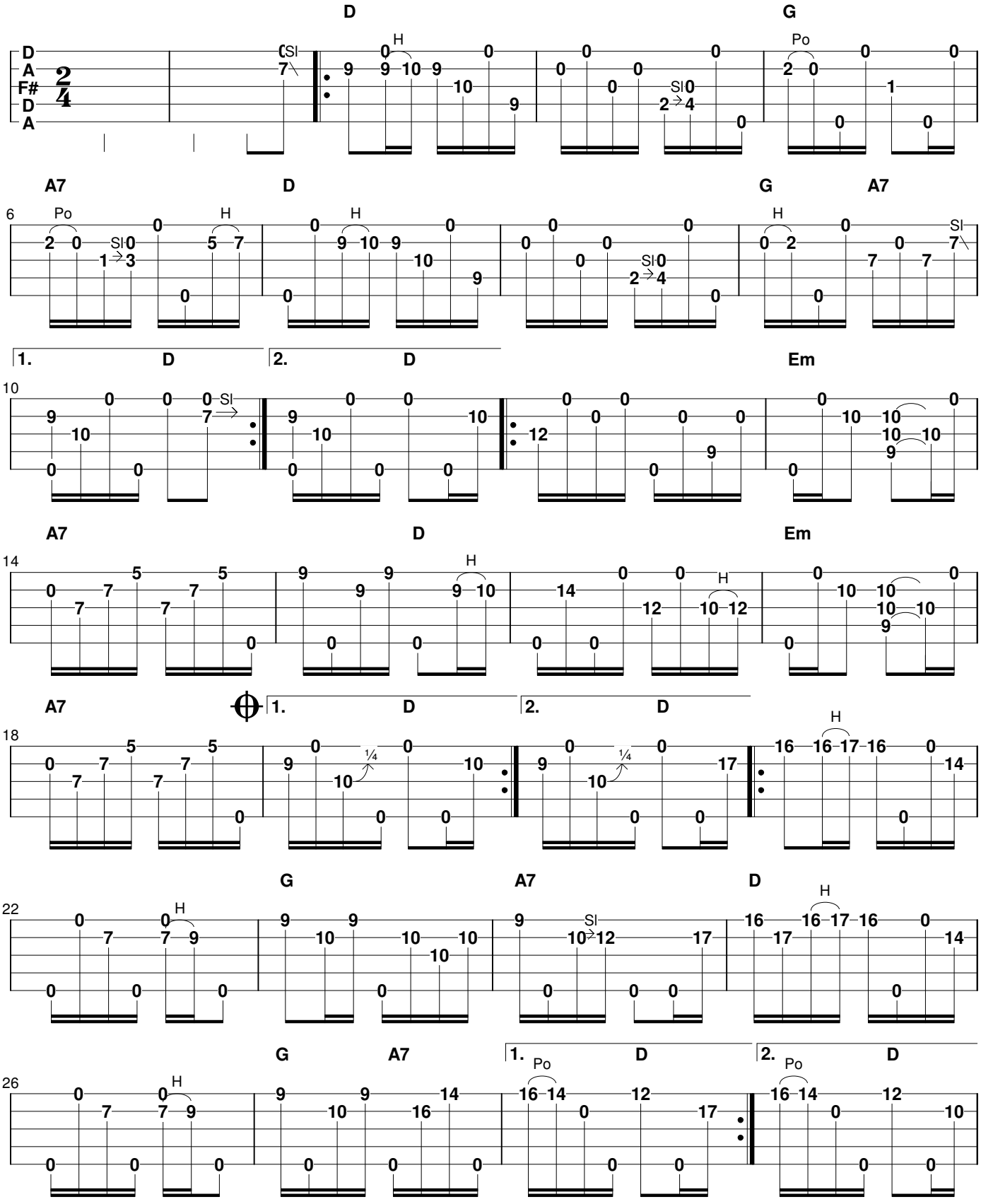

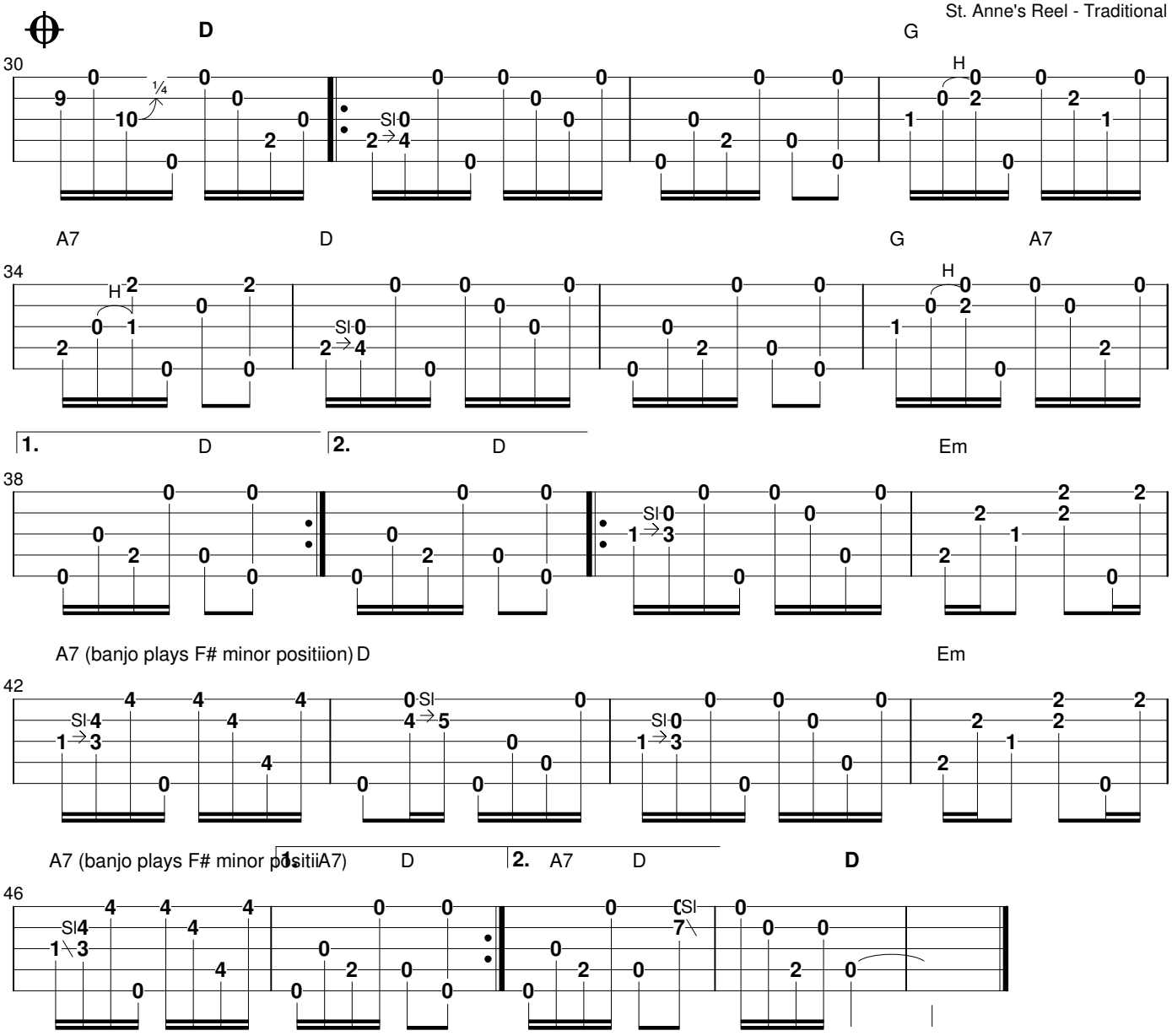

I've always thought of this as a French Canadian tune, but now you hear it just about everywhere, even in the bluegrass repertoire. This arrangement uses a lot of left hand technique, hammers, pull-offs and slides, to obtain the melody. The pull-off in measure 5 could also be done as a trill, a rapid hammer/pull-off done in succession.

Singer/songwriter David Mallett has written a song called the Ballad of St. Anne's Reel, which has been recorded by a variety of performers, from John Denver to Gordon Bok.

He said "I've heard that tune before somewhere but I can't remember when,
Was it on some other friendly shore, did I hear it on the wind,
Was it written on the sky above, I think I heard it from
someone I love,
But I never heard it sound so sweet since then.

In the up the neck variation of the A part, in measures 28 and 29, an open second string is plucked as part of a clawhammer-like rhythmic pattern. This note should be played very lightly, or it will clang.