

Standing Rock

Donald Couchie

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c2
D
A 2
G 4
D 4
g
5c2

Ghost hammer, see notes

5

GH

9

Ghost hammer, see notes

13

GH

17

21

1-2

3.

25

This haunting tune was composed by my good friend Don Couchie, in honor of the water protectors of Standing Rock. Don is from North Bay,

Ontario, and is a member of the Nipissing First Nation of the Anishinaabe Ojibwe. I have had the privilege of camping with Don at Clifftop for the past decade or so, sharing tunes and brotherhood.

Standing Rock is a modal tune, in A Dorian. What is truly unique about it is its timing. The entire tune is structured so that a phrase of three beats is followed by a resolution to a two beat phrase essentially composed of a single note. So it may be accurate to say it is in 5/4 time, but I have divided the measures here as a 3 beat measure followed by a 2 beat measure. Don mentioned to me that this is based on a traditional Ojibwe drum pattern. It makes for a very powerful sounding fiddle tune.