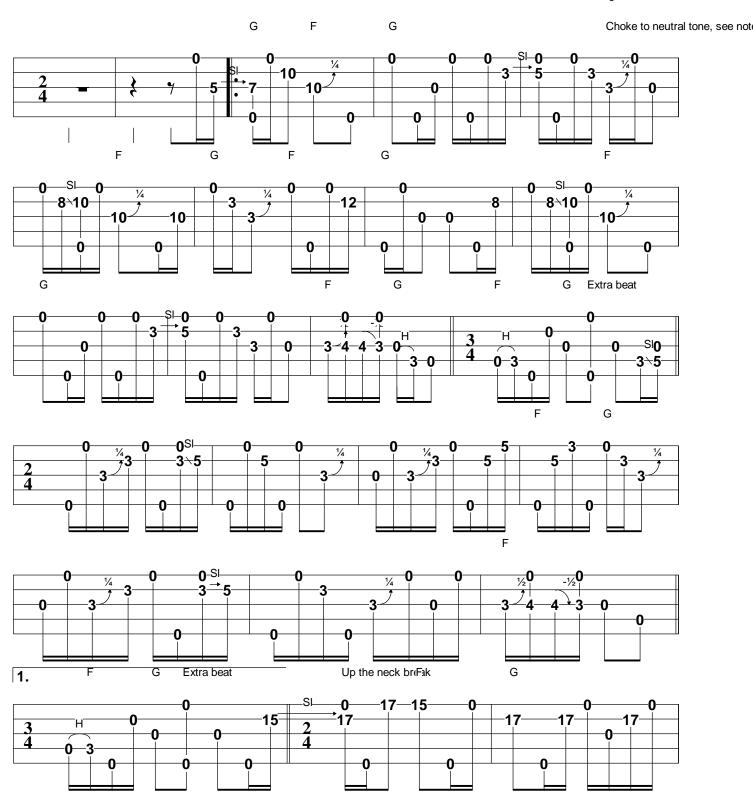
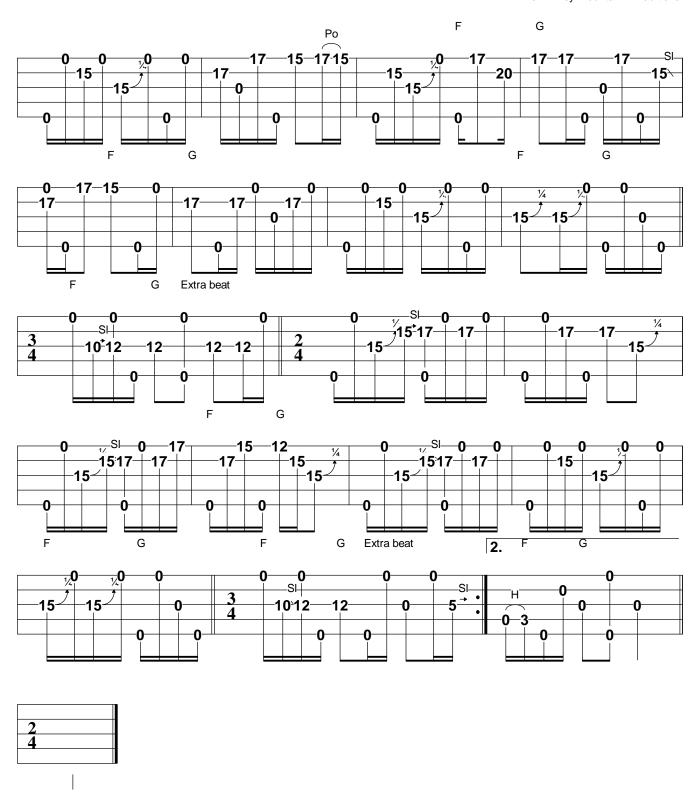
## Yew Piney Mountain Traditional

Arrangement (c) Copyright 2015 by Donald J. Borchelt All rights reserved.





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. Though I have pitched this tune in A, with the fiddle in A cross tuning (AEae), McCumbers is actually cross tuned 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.