

Yew Piney Mountain

Traditional

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Choke to neutral tone, see notes

G F G

F G F G F

G F G F G Extra beat

F G

F

F G Extra beat Up the neck brF&k G

1.

The fiddle score for 'Yew Piney Mountain' is written in A cross tuning (AEae). It consists of five systems of two staves each. The notation includes fret numbers (0, 15, 17, 20), slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. Chord diagrams for F and G are provided below the first two systems. A key signature box at the bottom left shows the A cross tuning (AEae) with strings 2 and 4 tuned to A.

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.