

# The Fiddler's Journey

by

Michael Cirillo

Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Arrangements  
of 19 Favorite Fiddle Tunes



The road is rough. The path is steep.  
Do you dare attempt The Fiddler's Journey?

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Hello Fiddling Enthusiast,

This is a book of arrangements of popular fiddle tunes. I have adapted them for teaching purposes.

These arrangements came from my work with fiddling students, and the need to get them playing real music as early as possible. The fiddle is a very challenging instrument, and it is easy to lose interest without the immediate gratification of playing actual fiddle tunes.

I have permitted authenticity to take a back seat to playability. If you are concerned with authenticity, many excellent sources are available.

This book is comprised of three sections:

Section 1: These arrangements are highly simplified and accessible to beginners.

Section 2: Intermediate players will enjoy these arrangements.

Section 3: These arrangements incorporate chromatic and Texas-style licks, and will challenge advanced players.

Enjoy!

Mike Cirillo

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The road is rough. The path is steep.

Do you dare attempt The Fiddler's Journey?

# Section 1:

## A Pleasant Stroll

# ARKANSAS TRAVELER

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO  
VERSION 1

The musical score for "Arkansas Traveler" is presented in four staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music consists of quarter notes and eighth notes. Above the notes, guitar chords are indicated: D, G, A7, and D. The first staff starts with a repeat sign and ends with a double bar line. The second staff begins with a measure number '5' and ends with a double bar line. The third staff begins with a measure number '9' and ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff begins with a measure number '13' and ends with a double bar line.

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# BOIL THEM CABBAGE DOWN

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO  
VERSION 1

5

9

13

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# BILL CHEATUM

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 1

5

9

13

3

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# BILLY IN THE LOWGROUND

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 1

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a common time signature 'C'. The second staff starts with a measure number '5' and includes a common time signature 'C'. The third staff starts with a measure number '9'. The fourth staff starts with a measure number '13'. Chord markings 'A MIN', 'G', and 'C' are placed above the notes in various measures. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.

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# BLACKBERRY BLOSSOM

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

5

9

13

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# CLUCK OLD HEN

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 1

5

9

13

17

21

2ND ENDING

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# CRIPPLE CREEK

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO  
VERSION 1

The musical score for "Cripple Creek" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff starts at measure 5 and ends with a double bar line. The third staff starts at measure 9 and ends with a double bar line. The fourth staff starts at measure 13 and ends with a double bar line. Chord markings are placed above the notes: A, D, A, E7, and A.

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# CUCKOO'S NEST

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO  
VERSION 1

TRADITIONAL

5

10

14

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# FLOP EARED MULE

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 1

TRADITIONAL

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

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# LEATHER BRITCHES

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

5

9

13

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# OLD JOE CLARK

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

Musical score for 'Old Joe Clark' in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of A major. The score consists of four staves of music with chord markings (A, E7, G) and measure numbers (5, 9, 13).

Staff 1: Measure 1-4. Chords: A, E7.

Staff 2: Measure 5-8. Chords: A, E7, A.

Staff 3: Measure 9-12. Chords: A, G.

Staff 4: Measure 13-16. Chords: A, E7, A.

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# OVER THE WATERFALL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO  
VERSION 1

TRADITIONAL

5

9

13

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# RAGTIME ANNIE

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 1

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

D

A7

D

A7

D

G

A7

D

G

D

A7

D

D

2ND ENDING

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# REOWING

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the notes. Measure numbers are placed at the start of each staff.

Staff 1: Measure 1 (Repeat sign), Measure 2 (G), Measure 3 (C), Measure 4 (G)

Staff 2: Measure 5 (D7), Measure 6 (G), Measure 7 (A7), Measure 8 (D7)

Staff 3: Measure 9 (G), Measure 10 (C), Measure 11 (G)

Staff 4: Measure 13 (D7), Measure 14 (G), Measure 15 (A7), Measure 16 (D7), Measure 17 (G)

Staff 5: Measure 17 (C), Measure 18 (G)

Staff 6: Measure 21 (D7), Measure 22 (G)

Staff 7: Measure 25 (C), Measure 26 (G)

Staff 8: Measure 29 (D7), Measure 30 (G), 2ND ENDING

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# SAY OLO MAN

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

EMIN D EMIN B7 EMIN

EMIN D EMIN B7 EMIN

5

E D E D E

9

E D E D E

13

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# SOLDIERS JOY

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

5

10

14

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 1

5

9

13

2ND ENDING

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# TURKEY IN THE STRAW

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

5

10

14

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# WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 1

5

9

13

2ND ENDING

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# Section 2:

## The Path Gets Steeper

# ARKANSAS TRAVELER

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

5

10

14

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# BOIL THEM CABBAGE DOWN

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO  
VERSION 2

5

10

14

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# BILL CHEATUM

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 2

5

10

14

A D E7 A E7 A E7 A

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# BILLY IN THE LOWGROUND

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 2

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a common time signature 'C'. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, A MIN, A MIN, G, and C. The second staff starts at measure 5. The third staff starts at measure 9. The fourth staff starts at measure 13. The fifth staff starts at measure 17. The sixth staff starts at measure 21. The seventh staff starts at measure 25. The eighth staff starts at measure 29 and includes a '2ND ENDING' section. The chords for the eighth staff are A MIN, G, C, G, and C.

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# BLACKBERRY BLOSSOM

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

5

10

14

END ENDING

END ENDING

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# CLUCK OLD HEN

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

5

9

13

17

21

2ND ENDING

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# CRIPPLE CREEK

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff starts at measure 5 and includes a '2ND ENDING' section. The third staff starts at measure 10 and also includes a '2ND ENDING' section. The fourth staff starts at measure 14 and concludes the piece. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, D, A, E7, and A. Measure numbers 5, 10, and 14 are printed at the beginning of their respective staves.

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# CUCKOO'S NEST

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 2

TRADITIONAL

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and includes chords D, A, C, and G. The second staff starts at measure 5 and includes chords D, G, D, A7, and D, ending with a double bar line and the text 'END ENDING'. The third staff starts at measure 10 and includes chords D and C. The fourth staff starts at measure 14 and includes chords D, G, D, A7, and D, ending with a double bar line and the text 'END ENDING'.

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# FLOP EARED MULE

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

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# LEATHER BRITCHES

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

5

9

13

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# OLD JOE CLARK

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 2

5

10

14

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# OVER THE WATERFALL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 2

TRADITIONAL

5

10

14

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# RAGTIME ANNIE

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 2

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

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# REOWING

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

Musical score for "Reowing" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music with various chords and an ending section.

Staff 1: Measure 1 (measure number 1 implied). Chords: G, C, G.

Staff 2: Measure 5. Chords: D7, G, A7, D7.

Staff 3: Measure 9. Chords: G, C, G.

Staff 4: Measure 13. Chords: D7, G, A7, D7, G.

Staff 5: Measure 17. Chords: C, G.

Staff 6: Measure 21. Chords: D7, G.

Staff 7: Measure 25. Chords: C, G.

Staff 8: Measure 29. Chords: D7, G. Section labeled "2ND ENDING".

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# SAY OLO MAN

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VERSION 2

TRADITIONAL

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music begins with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the staff: EMIN, D, EMIN, B7, and EMIN. The second staff starts at measure 5 and continues the melody. Chords are EMIN, D, EMIN, B7, and EMIN. The third staff starts at measure 9 and continues the melody. Chords are E, D, E, D, and E. The fourth staff starts at measure 13 and continues the melody. Chords are E, D, E, D, E, and EMIN. A section labeled '2ND ENDING' is indicated above the staff between measures 17 and 18. The score ends with a double bar line.

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# SOLDIERS JOY

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

5

10

14

D A7 D A7 D A7 D

D A7 D A7 D A7 D

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY

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VERSION 2

TRADITIONAL

5

9

13

2ND ENDING

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# TURKEY IN THE STRAW

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

5

10

14

2ND ENDING

2ND ENDING

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# WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 2

The musical score is written in treble clef, D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and includes chords D, G, D, and A7. The second staff starts at measure 5 and includes chords D, G, D, A7, and D. The third staff starts at measure 9 and includes chords D, EMIN, and A7. The fourth staff starts at measure 13 and includes chords D, A, G, D, G, D, A7, D, A7, and D. A bracket labeled '2ND ENDING' spans the final two measures of the fourth staff.

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Section 3:  
A Mountain Awaits



# BOIL THEM CABBAGE DOWN

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TRADITIONAL

VERSION 3

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

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# BILL CHEATUM

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

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3

# BILLY IN THE LOWGROUND

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VERSION 3

TRADITIONAL

Musical score for 'Billy in the Lowground' in 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. Chord markings are placed above the staves: C, A MIN, A MIN, G, C, A MIN, A MIN, G, C, A MIN, A MIN, G, C, A MIN, A MIN, G, C, A MIN, A MIN, G, C, A MIN, G, C, G, C. The score ends with a '2ND ENDING' section.

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# BLACKBERRY BLOSSOM

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and includes chords G, D, C, G, C, G, A7, and D7. The second staff starts at measure 5 with chords G, D, C, G, C, G, D7, and G. The third staff starts at measure 9 with chords G, D, C, G, C, G, A7, and D. The fourth staff starts at measure 13 with chords G, D, C, D, C, G, D7, and G. The fifth staff starts at measure 17 with an EMIN chord and a B7 chord. The sixth staff starts at measure 21 with an EMIN chord and chords D7 and G. The seventh staff starts at measure 25 with an EMIN chord and a B7 chord. The eighth staff starts at measure 29 with an EMIN chord and chords D7, G, D7, and G, ending with a 2ND ENDING section.

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# CLUCK OLD HEN

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

5 9 13 17 21

A G A E7 A G A E7 A G A E7 A G G A G E7 A E7 A

2ND ENDING

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# CRIPPLE CREEK

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

The musical score for "Cripple Creek" is presented in a single system with eight staves of music. The key signature is A major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is written in treble clef. Above the notes, guitar chords are indicated: A, D, A, E7, and A. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, and 29 are placed at the beginning of their respective staves. The score includes a repeat sign at the start of the first staff and a double bar line at the end of the eighth staff. The final measure of the eighth staff is labeled "END ENDING".

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# CUCKOO'S NEST

TRADITIONAL

5  
9  
13  
17  
21  
25  
29

2ND ENDING

# FLOP EARED MULE

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 3

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

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# LEATHER BRITCHES

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

The musical score consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a G chord. The second staff starts at measure 5. The third staff starts at measure 9. The fourth staff starts at measure 13. The fifth staff starts at measure 17 and includes a '3' below a triplet of notes. The sixth staff starts at measure 21. The seventh staff starts at measure 25. The eighth staff starts at measure 29. Chords G, D7, and C are indicated above the staves at various points.

LEATHER BRITCHES VERSION 3: PAGE 2 0 2

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and accidentals. Chord symbols are placed above the staves: G, D7, and G. Measure numbers 33, 37, 41, and 45 are indicated at the start of each staff. The fourth staff concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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# OLD JOE CLARK

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO  
VERSION 3

TRADITIONAL

Musical score for "Old Joe Clark" in A major, 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music. Chords are indicated by letters A, E7, and G above the notes. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, and 29 are marked at the beginning of their respective staves. The piece concludes with a "2ND ENDING" section.

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# RAGTIME ANNIE

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

0 A7

5 3 3

9 13 A7

17 21 G

25 29

D A7 G 2ND ENDING

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# REOWING

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

3

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# SAY OLO MAN

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of eight staves of music. Above the first four staves, guitar chords are indicated: EMIN, D, EMIN, B7, and EMIN. Above the fifth and sixth staves, chords E, D, E, and D are indicated. Above the seventh and eighth staves, chords E, D, E, D, and EMIN are indicated. The eighth staff includes a section labeled '2ND ENDING'. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) in the fifth and sixth staves. The piece concludes with a final chord of EMIN.

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# SOLDIER'S JOY

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

3

3

3

2ND ENDING

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# THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY

TRADITIONAL

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VERSION 3

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

A7 D A7 D

END ENDING

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# TURKEY IN THE STRAW

TRADITIONAL

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

VERSION 3

5

9

13

17

21

25

29

2ND ENDING

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# WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST

ARRANGED BY MIKE CIRILLO

TRADITIONAL

VERSION 3

Musical score for "Whiskey Before Breakfast" in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of nine staves of music with guitar chords and measure numbers.

Staff 1: Measure 1-4. Chords: D, G, D, A7.

Staff 2: Measure 5-8. Chords: D, G, D, A7, D.

Staff 3: Measure 9-12. Chords: D, G, D, A7.

Staff 4: Measure 13-16. Chords: D, G, D, A7, D.

Staff 5: Measure 17-20. Chords: D, E MIN, A7.

Staff 6: Measure 21-24. Chords: D, A, G, D, G, D, A7, D.

Staff 7: Measure 25-28. Chords: D, E MIN, A7.

Staff 8: Measure 29-32. Chords: D, A, G, D, G, D, A7, D, A7, D. Includes a double bar line and the text "2ND ENDING" above the final measure.

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Congratulations!

You have conquered

# The Fiddler's Journey

Good luck on your next fiddling adventure.