

REFLECTIONS
Robert Wadsworth
NOTES ON THE TUNES

1. **Spring Breeze** - hammered dulcimer melody, 6-string guitar (dropped-D tuning) and acoustic bass guitar accompaniment. Inspired by memory of a time of new-found awareness in my youth, when all seemed right with the world.
2. **Route 54** - 6-string guitar (DADGAD tuning), electric bass. Composed after a road trip to New Mexico, in 5/4 time, conveying (I hope) a sense of movement and utilizing some jazz-inspired chords.
3. **Sparklers** - 12-string-guitar (tuned down a half-step except B strings, with partial capo 4th fret above capo 2nd fret, for Bbsus tuning), acoustic bass guitar. A pattern-picking piece composed to take advantage of the “sparkle” of the 12-string guitar's octave strings.
4. **Quandary** - solo 6-string guitar (DADGAD tuning). Using standard-tuning D chord grip in DADGAD tuning creates a 9th chord, which is the backbone of this piece. Thanks to Mary Ellen for coming up with the name.
5. **Henry's New Bicycle** - 6-string guitar (B string tuned up to C with partial capo II for Asus tuning), acoustic bass guitar, egg shaker, tambourine. For my grandson, a formidable bike-rider. Lots of movement and syncopation,, interspersed with pauses and re-starts.
6. **Anthroponomy** - hammered dulcimer, acoustic bass guitar. Superimposes a triple-meter descending melody against a duple-meter ostinato accompaniment, such that melody and accompaniment repeatedly go in and out of sync with each other, bringing to mind the dissonance between human activity and the rest of the natural world. The last note is intended as a musical question as to whether we, as a species, will learn to live in harmony with mother earth, our only home.
7. **Red State Blues** - 6-string guitar (partial capo IV over capo II and B string tuned up one half-step, for Bsus tuning). Inspired by a feeling of dismay when my elected representatives were at odds with my values. (The state in which I reside has since turned “purple” and is now trending “blue.” Current listeners of the opposite political persuasion may wish to re-name the tune “Blue State Blues,” or program their CD players to skip this track!)
8. **Feels Like Snow/Dancing Snowflakes** - hammered dulcimer melody, 6-string guitar (DADGAD tuning) accompaniment, acoustic bass guitar, tambourine. A slow introduction conveying the feeling of an impending snowstorm, followed by a fast, rhythmic musical portrayal of illuminated snowflakes blowing across a window at night. In 7/16 time, to represent the “orderly chaos” of the flakes' movement.
9. **Park Street** - 6-string guitar (DADGAD tuning), acoustic bass guitar. Slow and dreamy, reminiscent of a stroll through a park on a warm afternoon.
10. **The Fifer's Fancy** - 12-string guitar (tuned down a whole-step with partial capo IV over capo II, for Esus tuning), acoustic bass guitar. The quick ascending notes starting each phrase remind me of a fife tune.
11. **Tessa's Lullaby** - 6-string guitar melody, hammered dulcimer accompaniment, acoustic bass guitar. For my granddaughter.
12. **Skippping Stones** - 12-string guitar (tuned down a half-step with partial capo IV over capo II, for simulated open Bb tuning), acoustic bass guitar, tambourine. Thanks to Mary Ellen for naming this one as well – she nailed it!
13. **Sunday Afternoon** – 6-string guitar (partial capo V over capo III, for simulated open-C

- tuning). Conceived (as I recall) on a leisurely Sunday afternoon in the month of March.
- 14. The Wind At My Back** - 6-string guitar (DADGAD tuning), acoustic bass guitar. One of my first finger-style guitar compositions, with lots of movement.
 - 15. Up In The Forest** - hammered dulcimer melody, 6-string guitar accompaniment (DADGAD tuning). The melody is reminiscent of the Christmas carol, "Down In Yon Forest," but ascends instead of descending. Hence, "Up In The Forest" - a place I like to be.
 - 16. Crossing The Atlantic** – 12-string guitar (tuned down a half-step except for B strings, partial capo IV over capo II, for Bbsus tuning), acoustic bass guitar. A suite of tunes written together. The fast jig that starts and ends the suite reminds me of a sailing ship powered by a brisk wind making an early trans-Atlantic crossing, while the slower center sections suggest more lethargic days with little or no breeze, when the adventurers' spirits and confidence must have waned.
 - 17. Bateau** – 6-string guitar (partial capo II for Esus tuning), acoustic bass guitar. A dreamy tune reminiscent of a lazy trip down-river in a flat-bottomed boat.
 - 18. Reflections** – 6-string guitar (DADGAD tuning) and hammered dulcimer alternate melody phrases, echoing or paraphrasing ("reflecting") each other, and sometimes coming together in harmony. The title track for this CD.
 - 19. Awakening** – hammered dulcimer melody, 6-string guitar (standard tuning) accompaniment. Written to convey the period of my adolescence when my mind was first opened to the world of the arts.
 - 20. Hand-In-Hand** – 6-string guitar (partial capo III over capo I for simulated open Bb tuning), acoustic bass guitar. It took a while to come up with a name for this one, but eventually it seemed to portray a leisurely walk with a special someone.
 - 21. Last Journey Home** – 6-string guitar melody (DADGAD tuning), hammered dulcimer accompaniment. This one wrote itself in the wake of the death of my last surviving parent, an apparent expression of complicated grief eventually giving way to acceptance.