

SUNRISE
Robert Wadsworth
~ NOTES ON THE TUNES ~

Sunrise (HD, L) - The original idea behind the title tune was to write a slip jig (9/8 time) for hammered dulcimer. No amount of wrestling with it seemed to mold it into that form, though, and it ended up morphing into this free-form, impressionistic piece. Originally composed as a solo hammered dulcimer piece, the guitar chords (DADGAD tuning, capo V) were added later.

Black Bridge Jig / Daffodil Riot (HD, T, B, t) - Striking the hammered dulcimer strings that cross the bridges at the black (as opposed to white) markers creates a pentatonic scale, and both of these tunes are based on those notes. Hence the name of the first tune. The second one was originally named "Daffodil Reel," until it occurred to me that it's not a reel. The accompanying guitar is in dropped-D tuning.

Carrousel (12, B, e, HD) - This happy-sounding tune, using a partial capo in open A configuration, brought to mind a carnival on a warm spring evening as soon as I wrote it. Originally conceived for solo 12-string guitar; additional instrumentation was added piece by piece during an extended recording process. ("Carrousel" isn't a typo – this was the preferred spelling until quite recently.)

Daydream (T, HD, B) – Played with two capos, one partial and one full (open B configuration at frets IV and II). Also written as a solo guitar piece, with the hammered dulcimer counter-melody retrofitted considerably later.

Meditation (HD, M, B) - This one pretty much wrote itself in the wake of the death of a family member. Although it's in a minor key to convey a pensive, yearning mood, I felt the need to resolve it with a major arpeggio. The guitar accompaniment uses a partial capo in E sustain configuration.

Genessee Jig (12, L, HD, B) - Written during the time when I made frequent trips to upstate New York, where my son was in college. The Genessee River flows through downtown Rochester. Upstream a ways, it flows through a beautiful gorge. The melody is played on the 12-string, G sustain configuration by placing a partial capo at fret V, two frets above a full capo. The accompanying 6-string part is played in DADGAD tuning, capo V.

The Last Leaves to Fall (HD, M) - One of the few tunes I've written that started with a concept, rather than a melody emerging from noodling on an instrument. In planning for a November concert a few years back, I wanted to write a fall-themed piece for hammered dulcimer. The guitar accompaniment (added as an afterthought) is in DADGAD tuning.

Maggie's Awake (12, HD, HD, B) - Reminds me of the Irish reel, Drowsy Maggie, but with the melody sort of turned upside down – hence, "Maggie's Awake." The slow solo 12-string introduction gives way to two overdubbed, up-tempo hammered dulcimer parts making liberal use of the instrument's dampers.

April Brook (M, B, HD) - One of the first tunes I wrote on guitar (or any instrument, for that matter). The guitar part was recorded quite a few years back, using an inexpensive pair of mics (all I owned at

the time). I figured it was probably a throw-away and re-do, but then listened to it again and liked the freshness of the sound. The hammered dulcimer accompaniment was conceived and overdubbed a number of years later, and the bass part added another year or more after that. Guitar is tuned to DADGAD, capo III (key of F major).

Innocence (L, HD) - Written for solo guitar with a partial capo in A sustain configuration, with hammered dulcimer added during the recording process.

Bridge to Nowhere / Gee Whiz (HD, T, B) - Needing more hammered dulcimer tunes for this CD and liking hornpipes, I managed to cobble these together rather quickly. Thanks to Mary Ellen, my wife, for naming the first tune: Even though the tunes are not identical and are in different keys, they sound suspiciously alike. Because the first one ends with a descending musical “bridge” into the second, which superficially doesn't sound much different than the first, she came up with “Bridge to Nowhere” (a topic in the political news of the time). The second tune is named after its key. The guitar is in standard tuning, with a capo on II for Bridge to Nowhere but removed for Gee Whiz.

River Bank (M, HD, B) - Another rare tune that began with a thematic idea instead of a noodled riff, this one was inspired by watching the river flow by at James River State Park in central Virginia, where friends gather to camp and play music twice a year. The guitar melody is played in open-G tuning.

Tramontane Bells (HD, L, B) - As soon as the piece was finished, I knew the name had to be something about bells. Tramontane is a thesaurus word meaning coming from the far side of the mountains – a bit of poetic license – to capture the distant quality of the soft beginning and ending. This is another solo hammered dulcimer composition to which additional instrumentation was added one piece at a time: first the guitar (DADGAD tuning, capo II), then the bass.

Key to instrument abbreviations:

- HD = 2001 17/16/8 Songbird Warbler hammered dulcimer by Chris Foss (custom dampers added by Rick Fogel at Whamdiddle)
- L = 1996 Larivée D-9 6-string guitar
- M = 1995 Martin OM-21 6-string guitar
- T = 2006 Taylor GSMC 6-string guitar
- 12 = 2001 Taylor 355 12-string guitar
- B = Tacoma Thunderchief acoustic bass guitar
- e = egg shaker
- t = tambourine