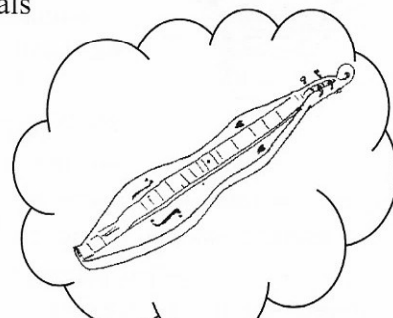


How Different Levels of Players Can Use This Tablature

Beginners



Most of the songs in this collection are relatively easy to play. Simply tune your dulcimer to DAd or whatever tuning is called for in the upper left corner of the music. The simplest way to play these tunes is to press down only the string(s) on which the melody is played. In this tablature the numerals representing the melody are easy to recognize because they are in larger, bolder print than the rest of the numerals. Press just to the left of the fret which corresponds to the large, bold numerals of the tablature. If you strum with your left hand, then you will press the melody strings just to the right of the frets. Then strum all of the strings except where X's occur. The other strings will produce a chord that will give these melodies a beautiful, haunting sound.



Novices

When you are ready to note more than one string, you can add a whole other dimension to your dulcimer playing. On this music, you will notice three lines under the lyrics. Often, each of these lines has numerals on it. By using more than one finger you can press down more than one string at a time. At first, this seems awkward, but with some practice, you will begin to recognize chord "shapes" as you look at the numerals. Experiment with each song, discovering which finger positions are best for you.

When performing, you will find that simple harmony parts can help a great deal. Playing the same melody the same way over and over can become monotonous even for the most loving audience. However, when you can play harmony parts you can add variety. For example, you can begin by playing only the melody as described in "Beginners" above. Then play the melody with the harmony.



Intermediate & Advanced Players



If you are comfortable playing out of full chording positions, I consider you to be an intermediate or advanced player for purposes of this book. For each of the tunes I have suggested chord positions for you to use. I have tried to suggest chording that is convenient and makes sense to me in terms of getting from one chord to the next, but if you find another way to play a chord or a sequence of chords that works better for you, please feel free to make changes. In the facing page, I have provided a chord chart that shows a variety of ways to play most of the chords used in this book.

May the luck of Irish be with you!