

Tombigbee Waltz

Words & music Attributed to
S.S. Steele and A.F. Winnemore (circa 1847)

arranged for mountain dulcimer by Jaymie Maham



A Traditional old-time Fiddle tune from the mid 1800s and early 1900s era in $\frac{3}{4}$ time

~DAd Tuning

~Suggested for
Advanced Beginner
players and above

~Tablature,
lead sheet
standard notation,
complete lyrics,
& accompaniment
chords included

**INCLUDES
A LOW OCTAVE
CROSS PICKED
VARIATION**

TOMBIGBEE WALTZ

Attributed to S.S. Steele and A.F. Winnemore (circa 1847)

Traditional

Arranged for dulcimer November 2023
by Jaymie Maham

A Part

Musical notation for the first system of the A Part, measures 1-5. The treble clef staff shows a melody in G major, 3/4 time. The dulcimer staff shows fretting for D, A, and D strings. Chords G and D are indicated above the staff.

Musical notation for the second system of the A Part, measures 6-11. It includes first and second endings. Chords C, G, D, and G are indicated above the staff.

B Part

Musical notation for the first system of the B Part, measures 12-16. The treble clef staff shows a melody in G major, 3/4 time. The dulcimer staff shows fretting for D, A, and D strings. Chords G, C, G, and D are indicated above the staff.

Musical notation for the second system of the B Part, measures 17-22. It includes first and second endings. Chords C, G, D, and G are indicated above the staff.

This work is in the public domain in the United States because it was published in 1909 (although it has earlier origins), before the cutoff of January 1 1928. S.S. Steele and A.F. Winnemore (1847) are originally credited with words and music in Garson's Laura Ingles Wilder Songbook.

TOMBIGBEE WALTZ

(Low / Flatpick Variation)

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Traditional

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Part A

G

D

<< STACKED NOTES IN (parentheses) ARE OPTIONS FOR ADDING CHORDS.....ON THE MIDDLE STRING, (parentheses) ARE FORTHOSE WITH 1+ FRETS >>

D
A
D

1 0 | 3 (1) (0) | 1 1 | 2 3 | 1 0 | 3 (1) (0) | 1 1 | 2 3 | 1 | 5 6 5 4 4 (1+) (1) (0) (0)

1.

C

G

2.

D

G

6 D
A
D

7 (1) (1+) | 8 (3) | 2 1 0 | 9 (2) | 10 | 11 3 (1) | 0

Part B

G

C

G

D

12 D
A
D

13 (0) (1) | 14 (1.) (1+) | 15 (1) | 16 6 5 4 4 (1+) (1) (0) (0)

1.

C

G

2.

D

G

17 D
A
D

18 (1) (1+) | 19 (3) | 20 (2) | 21 | 22 3 (1.) (0.)

Lyrics – *Tombigbee Waltz*

*On Tom-big-bee River so bright I was born,
In a hut made of husks of the tall yeller corn,
And there I first met my Julah so true,
An' I row'd her about In my gum-tree canoe.*

Chorus:

*Singing row away, row, O'er the waters so blue,
Like feathers we'll float in my gum-tree canoe.*

*All the day in de field the soft cotton I hoe,
I think of my Julah an' sing as I go;
Oh, I catch her a bird, with a wing of true blue,
An at night sail her 'round in my gum-tree canoe.*

Chorus:

*Singing row away, row, O'er the waters so blue,
Like feathers we'll float in my gum-tree canoe.*

*With my hand on my banjo and my toe on the oar
I would sing her a song to the river's soft roar
While the bright stars shone down on my Julah so true
And they danced in her eyes in the gum tree canoe*

Chorus:

*Singing row away, row, O'er the waters so blue,
Like feathers we'll float in my gum-tree canoe.*

*One day the old river took us so far away
That we couldn't get back so we thought we'd just stay
We spied a tall ship with a flag of true blue
And she took us in tow in the gum tree canoe*

Chorus:

*Singing row away, row, O'er the waters so blue,
Like feathers we'll float in my gum-tree canoe.*

Notes:

This tune is also known as "Gum Tree Canoe" and "Tom Big Bee River." It is an American, Waltz in typical 3/4 time in the key of G Major. The melody is notably named for the Tombigbee River which flows from northeastern Mississippi into the Alabama River.

Tombigbee is rumored to mean 'coffinmaker' in one of the Native American languages. A song version, "Tom Big Bee River," was printed in Heart Songs – Melodies of Days Gone By, published in 1909, although it is much older.