

Bluegrass 101 Song Book

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A digital library of songs in this book can be found on Strum Machine:

<https://strummachine.com/app/lists/bggA6nh7C3amGXxZP>

History of Bluegrass

Bluegrass music is a melding of multiple forms of traditional music to form its own unique genre. The themes, verse/chorus structure and melody of English and Scottish ballads and instrumentals are important components that provide the foundation of the music. The harmony blends of Baptist gospel and the brother harmony groups of the 1930s are also important components of bluegrass music. Finally, the turn-taking between instrument soloist and singer, along with the vital back beat of the blues solidified bluegrass and differentiated this genre from country and old-time music.

There are very few genres of music that can be traced back to a specific time frame and individual. Bill Monroe is considered the originator of bluegrass music. Bill Monroe and The Blue Grass Boys; and, to be more exact, the replacement of banjo player Stringbean (David Akeman) with Earl Scruggs in 1945 was the final piece that solidified this new form of music.

Location also played an important role. The Appalachia region of the United States; specifically, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee provided the right influences of music and musicians to allow for this genre to develop and flourish. Scottish settlers in the area brought fiddle tunes and European ballads. The strong religious ties brought the Baptist and Pentecostal gospel music. And the Appalachian region was an area with a significant African-American population (a complex history, African American integration was more prevalent in this region compared to the large plantations in the south). While Bill Monroe was greatly influenced by the fiddle players of the region (including his Uncle Pen), it was Arnold Schultz, a black blues/hillbilly guitar player who played a thumb-style that arguably influenced Bill Monroe the most. The North Carolina region also was home to a number of banjo players. Snuffy Jenkins had not only adapted a three-finger roll (compared to the two-finger roll used by many players in the regions), but also used two metal finger picks and a thumb pick to create a loud, syncopated roll that could be heard above fiddle, mandolins and guitars. His playing (along with other players like Smith Hammett and Rex Brooks) would influence a number of banjo players in North Carolina, including Earl Scruggs, Don Reno and Ralph Stanley.

The Blue Grass Boys consisted of Bill Monroe on mandolin, Chubby Wise on fiddle, Lester Flatt on guitar, Earl Scruggs on banjo and Howard Watts (also known as Cedric Rainwater) on upright bass. Between 1946 and 1947 this band would record 28 songs. In early 1948, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs left the band to form the Foggy Mountain Boys, but in those two years, they laid the foundation for the genre of music we still listen to and play today.

The First Generation

Bill Monroe was already a well-recognized performer before the formation of The Blue Grass Boys. In the 1930s, Bill Monroe was singing with his brother Charlie Monroe as the Monroe Brothers. Brother groups were an important fixture of the early country music of the 1930s – in addition to The Monroe Brothers, there were the Blue Sky Boys, Callahan Brothers, Dixon Brothers and the Delmore Brothers. With the formation of The Blue Grass Boys, Bill Monroe toured the southwest portion of the United States and played on The Grand Ole Opry – WSM radio. This music was revolutionary. Musicians in the region were greatly influenced and started to form their own bands, styling their music closely to Bill Monroe and The Blue Grass Boys.

In 1947, Bill Monroe and The Blue Grass Boys recorded “Molly and Tenbrooks.” In 1948, the Stanley Brothers recorded the same song in this new style (and actually released it before Bill Monroe released his version – resulting in a feud between the two birds in the early days of bluegrass). The Stanley Brothers would be the first band to emulate Monroe’s style of music, but many would soon follow.

Some of the first generation of bluegrass musicians would spend time in Bill Monroe's band, leaving for personal or financial reasons to form their own bands. Others would hear the music on records or the radio or at live shows and try to copy the sound. Soon there were many bands imitating Bill Monroe's style – and people started to call this new form of music "bluegrass."

Other bands from this first generation include:

- Flatt and Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys
- Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys
- Jim and Jesse McReynolds
- Hylo Brown and the Timberliners
- The Osborne Brothers
- Red Smiley and Don Reno
- Buzz Busby
- Mac Wiseman
- The Lilly Brothers

In the late 1940s and the early 1950s, bluegrass music packed theatres, sold millions of records and made these musicians into superstars.

However, in the late 1950s, rock and roll and country music replaced bluegrass music, and some of the first generation bluegrass musicians would cross over into country music or retire.

Migration

An important development in bluegrass music was musicians from the Appalachia region moved to other places in the United States, performing, teaching and influencing musicians in other regions to play bluegrass music. This not only brought bluegrass music to other areas, it would allow for evolution of bluegrass – an expansion of the definition and the creation of sub-genres.

Buzz Busby, born in Louisiana, was a mandolin player greatly influenced by Bill Monroe. In 1951, he moved to Washington D.C. He played and taught this new style of music and influenced banjo players Eddie Adcock and Bill Emerson, guitar players Charlie Waller and Dudley Connell and mandolin player John Duffy. Charlie Waller, Eddie Adcock and John Duffy would form The Country Gentlemen. Dudley Connell would eventually form The Johnson Mountain Boys.

Vern Williams was born in Arkansas in 1930 and moved to California in 1952. There he met up with Ray Park, another transplant from Arkansas. They were able to find a banjo player, Luther Riley, and Vern & Ray and the Carroll County Boys brought bluegrass music to the California area. The Kentucky Colonels, Laurie Lewis, Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen and many others were greatly influenced by Vern and Ray.

There are later examples of transplants as well influencing regions. Tim O'Brien was born in West Virginia, but moved to Colorado in the 1970s. In 1978, Tim would join Pete Wernick on banjo, Charles Sawtelle on guitar and Nick Forster on electric bass. Their band, Hot Rize, would inspire Colorado musicians, and today a hot bed of great bluegrass bands coming from that region.

The Folk Revival

In the late 1950s, one of the ways bluegrass bands survived was playing the smaller college circuits. In the early 1960s, there was a folk revival, where young people started to rediscover and explore early Americana music, such as The Carter Family, the Skillet Lickers, blues musicians such as Robert Johnson and Huddie Ledbetter and, of course, bluegrass musicians.

Some of these young people were interested in more than just listening and discovering the music. They wanted to learn to play. The Kentucky Colonels, with Clarence White on guitar, Roland White on mandolin, Billy Ray Latham on banjo, Scotty Stoneman on fiddle and Roger Bush on bass were a band greatly influenced by the folk revival, and specifically, bluegrass. The Dillards were another band. Even Jerry Garcia played banjo and bluegrass music before forming his band The Grateful Dead (and would continue to play bluegrass music - for example, on the album "Old and In the Way" with Peter Rowan, David Grisman, John Kahn and Vassar Clements).

Another important band from this time frame was The Country Gentlemen. While they formed as early as 1957, they solidified their sound in the early 1960s. Instead of playing a high-lonesome sound of Bill Monroe, they played a more mellow form of bluegrass, incorporating modern folk songs with bluegrass instrumentation. They would greatly influence a new generation of bluegrass musicians and broaden the scope of how bluegrass music was defined and played.

The Bluegrass Festival

In 1953, Bill Monroe hired Carlton Haney as a booking agent for his band. In 1955, Carlton also managed Reno and Smiley. In the early 1960s, Carlton started to lump together bluegrass and country acts on the same slate.

In 1965, with the help of Ralph Rinzler, Carlton Haney produced the first weekend-long bluegrass music festival. The Fincastle Bluegrass Festival was held at Cantrell's Horse Farm in Fincastle, Virginia. It would lay down the format for bluegrass festivals.

In the 1970s, bluegrass festivals started to pop up across North America. These festivals provided an opportunity for audience members to see multiple bluegrass bands in one day. Additionally, they brought together budding musicians who would find corners to play with other musicians, wanting to emulate the sound they heard on stage.

Sometimes the bluegrass stars would join the parking lot pickers. And the sharing of songs and licks would be passed from one player to the next. These festivals would be the birthplace of many new bluegrass bands.

Another important factor is headliners would have the opportunity to hear bands from other areas. Sometimes, these headliners would "poach" players from other bands (or hear a picker in a parking lot). This created what could be considered an "apprenticeship," where musicians would learn from an older bandleader before moving up to a more successful bluegrass band, or for that musician to leave and start their own band.

Newgrass

In bluegrass, there is a push and pull between those who hold on to the tradition of the music with those who try to push the boundaries of the music.

In the late 60s and early 70s, there were musicians who were abandoning the strict confines that traditionalists used to define bluegrass music. These musicians were incorporating jazz, calypso, reggae and other genres to redefine bluegrass music.

John Hartford's album *Aereo-Plain* could be considered the first Newgrass album (released in 1971). The band consisted of John Hartford on banjo, Norman Blake and Randy Scruggs on guitar, Vassar Clements on fiddle and Tut Taylor on dobro. Commercially, it was a failure. However, the album expanded the definition of bluegrass and would have a huge impact on other musicians.

One of those musicians greatly influenced by John Hartford was Sam Bush. As a teen, Sam won multiple oldtime fiddle contests. In 1969, he joined Wayne Stewart and Alan Munde (later of *Country Gazette*) and recorded a more traditional-style instrumental album titled *Poor Richard's Almanac*. However, it was his band *Bluegrass Alliance*, which later reformed as *New Grass Revival*, that really stretched the genre of bluegrass music.

The band would undergo a number of different personnel changes. Through all the changes, the band defined a new sub-genre of bluegrass music called Newgrass. The songs would sometimes result in extended free-style jams that would go on for five minutes or longer. Some of the songs were heavily arranged with complicated key changes and time signature changes. *New Grass Revival* would greatly influence yet another generation of bluegrass musicians. It also expanded the types of music that people would play with the bluegrass band instrumentation. It also divided some people into two camps – traditional and progressive. This division and debate of what defines bluegrass still exists today.

Television and movies

Television was a huge industry in the California region and offered great opportunities for musicians when shows wanted to feature bluegrass music. Sometimes the music was comic relief, and sometimes the music was presented in a more serious fashion. Three television shows would have an impact on a generation of future bluegrass musicians who spent a lot of time in front of the television set.

The *Andy Griffith Show* was a show about a small-town sheriff. Very wholesome, the lovable Andy Griffith was a singing sheriff and would occasionally pull out a guitar to sing. Two bands would be featured on the *Andy Griffith Show* – The *Kentucky Colonels* (called *The Country Boys*) and The *Dillards* (called *The Darlings*).

Two other television shows also featured the banjo. *Petticoat Junction* and the spin off, *Green Acres*, featured bluegrass music as theme songs.

The television show with the biggest impact was *The Beverly Hillbillies*. Set in Beverly Hills, this show featured a backwoods family who struck it rich in oil, and the culture clash between hillbillies and "city folk." This show ran from 1962 to 1971 and was the number one show in 1962 to 1964. Not only did it feature bluegrass music as the theme song, but dispersed throughout the series you could hear banjo music. And Flatt and Scruggs made guest appearances. Many people heard bluegrass music for the first time watching the television series "*The Beverly Hillbillies*." Bela Fleck is an example. He became interested in banjo as a result of hearing the music on "*The Beverly Hillbillies*," and his grandfather bought him a banjo at the age of 15.

Another movie with a huge impact on bluegrass was the 1972 movie *Deliverance*. A dark drama set in the northern Georgia wilderness, an early scene showed a city man (Ronnie Cox) playing with a banjo-playing country boy. The song *Duelling Banjos* would go to number two on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1973 and cause many people to seek out the banjo.

Other movies that featured bluegrass music were *Bonnie and Clyde* (Foggy Mountain Breakdown) and, more recently, *O' Brother Where Art Thou* (which will be discussed later). Films and television bring bluegrass music to a broader audience, resulting in increased sales of bluegrass music and new people seeking to learn to play.

Back to Tradition

In the 1980s, there was a strong push to bring bluegrass back to its roots. Some of the musicians responsible for pushing the genre (Doyle Lawson and Tony Rice) formed a “super” band to perform some of the music from the first generation of bluegrass stars and released it as an album. J.D. Crowe on banjo, Doyle Lawson on mandolin, Bobby Hick on fiddle and Todd Phillips on bass in 1981 recorded “The Bluegrass Album.” The album consisted of bluegrass standards played in a style resembling the late 1940s and early 1950s style of bluegrass.

The Johnson Mountain Boys were another band that not only played like the first generation of bluegrass musicians, but dressed and had stage banter that emulated the early bluegrass musicians. Formed in 1978 in the Washington D.C. area, it was comprised of Dudley Connell on guitar and lead vocals, Richard Underwood on banjo (later replaced by Tom Adams), Eddie Stubbs on fiddle, Eddie D’Zmura on mandolin and Larry Robbins on bass (later replaced by Marshall Willborn).

Nashgrass

In the late 1980s, early 1990s there was resurgence in country music – which resulted in a renewed interest in bluegrass music. Nashville spawned a number of bluegrass musicians that resulted in a more polished, sophisticated sound that honed their skills in a studio rather than onstage touring and playing colleges and music festivals. Voices became softer with a tighter blend, and instrumentation became cleaner and more precise. Click tracks were used in studios, resulting in a more uniform sound.

Some late 1980s, early 1990s bluegrass bands include:

- Nashville Bluegrass Band
- Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver
- IIIrd Tyme Out
- Lonesome River Band
- Blue Highway
- Alison Krauss and Union Station

Many of these bands had not played with the First Generation of bluegrass musicians. Many of them were studio musicians, and some had post-secondary education in music. This resulted in them having very different ideas about music compared to musicians growing up in the Appalachia region.

O' Brother Where Art Thou

In 2000, The Coen Brothers released a movie called “O' Brother Where Art Thou.” The soundtrack, produced by T-Bone Burnett, featured songs from the movie, styled more in an old-time and early country style than bluegrass. However, many of the musicians were bluegrass stars (Alison Krauss, Dan Tyminski, John Hartford, The Cox Family, The Whites, Norman Blake and Ralph Stanley). The soundtrack sold millions of copies and won Grammy Album of the Year in 2002.

The International Bluegrass Music Association recognized the potential of this album and started to push bluegrass concerts, albums and featured artists (and friends) at events across the world. Older bluegrass musicians (such as Ralph Stanley and Del McCoury) were revered. And, once again, an entire generation were exposed to bluegrass music.

Progressive Acoustic

A new breed of bluegrass bands started to form. Some could be labelled as “Progressive Acoustic,” pushing the boundaries once again of what bluegrass music is, such as “The Punch Brothers.” Others take influences from other genres, such as jam bands like The Grateful Dead, such as Yonder Mountain Stringband and The Greencards. Still others are drawn to roots music prior to bluegrass, and incorporate oldtime music into their playing, sometimes combined with newer influences, such as the bands “Crooked Still” and “Old Crow Medicine Show.”

There is another group as well that combines bluegrass with punk – bands such as The Devil Makes Three,

Bluegrass Instrumentation

There are two important things to remember regarding bluegrass instrumentation, from a rhythm perspective.

One is the “back beat.” Most bluegrass songs are in 4/4 time, meaning four beats to a measure. The emphasis is on beats 2 and 4 (similar to rock and roll music). This differentiates bluegrass from country and old time music, where typically the beats are on 1 and 3.

Two is that when bluegrass was first being played, the ultimate goal was to play on the stage of the Grand Old Opry. And drums were not allowed on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry in the late 40s. Therefore, the instruments had to play both a melodic and a percussive role.

At the root is the rhythm “boom CHICK.”

Instrumentally, it’s important to understand the melody is NOT done in unison. Vocally or instrumentally, there is only one source of melody. The other instruments (including voice) are either playing harmony (counter melodies) or providing rhythm.

Guitar

The guitar, along with the bass, provides the foundation for the rhythm of bluegrass.

Much of the guitar rhythm is based on Mother Maybelle Carter’s guitar playing. Both Lester Flatt and Mother Maybelle played guitar in a “boom CHICK” pattern. The “boom” was a single-string pluck of the root note of the chord, alternating with the fifth, with a strum in between (the “CHICK”). The strum was the louder of the two sounds. So root-strum; fifth-strum.

On the “CHICK” you can also do an up-strum as you go back to playing the “boom,” which creates a “boom-CHICK-a” beat.

You want a hard pick, and you want to play closer to the bridge than the neck of the guitar (typically between the sound hole and the bridge). The guitar of choice is typically a dreadnought. The combination of this provides a sharper attack from the initial strum, and a bright, loud sound.

Banjo

The banjo may provide a “vamp” on beats two and four – a pluck of strings that is quickly dampened by lightly lifting up the fingers of the left hand (but keeping them on the strings). Mostly, the bluegrass banjo is providing the “drive” by using a roll-pattern of sixteenth notes.

The banjo can play a staccato-type rhythm, with each note getting the same amount of time – like a metronome (da-da-da-da-da-da-da-da). Or, it can provide a swing or a “bounce” by lengthening the first note (doo-da-doo-da-doo-da-doo-da-doo-da).

Mandolin

Rhythmically, the mandolin plays the role of the snare drum. Similar to banjo, a snap on the off-chord with fingers muting the strings provides a snare-like sound on beats two and four.

The mandolin can also play counter-melodies to the lead vocals, or a “tremolo,” a fast-strum pattern, during breaks in singing.

Fiddle

The fiddle is the instrument that has sustain (all other instruments have a loud “attack” with a quick “decay” in regards to a sound wave).

The fiddle can be bowed, typically on the third or the fifth in the root of the chord – holding this note allows for a sustained note through chords. The fiddle can also play counter melodies (harmony) to the lead.

Alternately, by striking a string close to the frog of the bow, you can get a vamp, similar to the mandolin or banjo vamp (particularly effective when the mandolin is not playing a vamp).

Resophonic guitar

The resophonic guitar, sometimes called the dobro, can do rolls similar to a banjo, and a vamp similar to mandolin. It also has more sustain than a guitar or banjo, so it can hold notes, or slide and provide sustain when a fiddle isn’t present, or when a fiddle is not playing “long and low.” It can emulate a pedal steel guitar, similar to early country music, for slower songs.

Upright bass

The bass is the only instrument that is emphasizing beats one and three. Beat one is the root of the chord. Beat three is the fifth. So if the chord is G – beat one the bass is playing a G-note; and on beat three the bass player plays a D-note.

The bass may also do a “walking” bass, doing a pentatonic scale on each quarter note. The bass player plays a similar role to the bass drum in rock and roll.

Harmony

To provide very basic theory - there are 12 equally-spaced notes in one octave – each separated by a semi-tone (one semi-tone equals one fret distance on a fretted instrument).

So in a G chromatic scale:

G, G#, A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#

In a standard scale, there are 7 notes (Do-Re-Me-Fa-So-La-Te).

The semi-tone separations between these notes are as follows:

2-2-1-2-2-2-1.

So a G scale is:

G, A, B, C, D, E, F# and G (one octave above the first note).

Major chord

A major chord is made up of the root, the third note in the standard scale and the fifth note in the standard scale.

For example, the G-chord is made up of the “root” – the first note (G), the third note (B) and the fifth note (D).

Harmony singing

Understanding the chord is vital in having an understanding of harmony. In three-part harmony, you want to be singing the intervals that make “blend” or a pleasing sound, which is directly related to the major chord.

NOTE: In classically trained music, tenor and baritone relate to a vocal range. In bluegrass, “tenor” refers to a note that is a third (sometimes a fourth) interval from the lead note. The baritone is a fifth (sometimes a sixth) interval from the lead note.

In the key of G:

If the lead singer is singing a “B-note.” The “tenor” would be singing the “D-note” and the baritone would be singing the “G-note.”

If the lead singer is singing a “G-note.” The tenor would be singing the “B-note” and the baritone would be singing the “D note”

If the lead singer is singing a “D-note.” The tenor would be singing the “G-note” and the baritone would be singing the “B-note.”

Notice that all three of these examples create the sound of a major chord.

When you go up a note, each singer progresses to the next note in the standard scale. So, in the above example, if the person singing a “G-note” goes up one note (two semi-tones to an “A-note,” the person singing the “D-note” goes up two semi-tones to an “E-note,” but the person singing the “B-note” only goes up ONE semi-tone to a “C-note.”

Changing a chord:

When you change a chord, your scale changes. Therefore, the intervals between harmony notes may change.

A standard C-scale:

C, D, E, F, G, A, B

Notice it is slightly different from the G-scale (The F is sharp in the G-scale).

The major chord for C is comprised of the “C-note,” “E-note” and “G-note.”

So, if the lead is singing a “G-note” with a C-chord, the tenor is singing a “C-note” and the baritone is singing the “E-note.” Compare that to a G-chord where the lead is singing a G-note – the tenor would be singing a “B-note” and the baritone the “D-note.”

Harmony stacking

1952 Vincent Black Lightning

Richard Thompson (ver. Del McCoury Band, 2001)

Key of C, 125 BPM

Chords					Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)				
Verse					Verse				
C C	C C	C C	C C	C C	G G	G G	G G	G G	
C C	F F	F F	F F	F F	G G	C C	C C	C C	
F F	F F	C C	C C	C C	C C	C C	G G	G G	
C C	C C	C C	C C	C C	G G	G G	G G	G G	
F F	F F	F F	F F	F F	C C	C C	C C	C C	
F F	C C	C C			C C	G G	G G		
G G	G G	F F	C C	C C	D D	D D	C C	G G	
G G	G G	F F	C C	C C	D D	D D	C C	G G	G G
D ^m D ^m	D ^m D ^m	F F	F F	F F	A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m	C C	C C	
F F	F F	F F	C C	C C	C C	C C	C C	G G	
C C	C C	C C			G G	G G	G G		

Lyrics:

I IV
Said Red Molly, to James, "That's a fine motorbike
I
A girl could feel special on any such like"
Said James, to Red Molly, "My hat's off to you
It's a Vincent Black Lightning, 1952
V IV I
And I've seen you at the corners and cafes, it seems
V IV I
Red hair and black leather, my favorite color scheme"
iiM IV
And he pulled her on behind
I
And down to Knoxville they did ride

Said James, to Red Molly, "Here's a ring for your right hand
But I'll tell you in earnest I'm a dangerous man
I've fought with the law since I was seventeen
I robbed many a man to get my Vincent machine
Now I'm twenty-one years I might make twenty-two
And I don't mind dyin' but for the love of you
But if fate should break my stride, then I'll give you my
Vincent to ride"

"Come down come down Red Molly," called Sargent McCray
"For they've taken young James Aidede for armed robbery
Shotgun blast hit his chest, left nothing inside
Come down Red Molly to his dying bedside"
When she came to the hospital, there wasn't much left
He was runnin' out of road, he was runnin' out of breath
But he smiled, to see her cry
Said, "I'll give you my Vincent to ride."

Said James, "In my opinion, there's nothing in this world
Beats a '52 Vincent and a redheaded girl
Now Nortons and Indians and Greavses won't do
Oh, they don't have a Soul like a Vincent '52"
He reached for her hand and he slipped her the key
He said, "I don't have any further use for these
I see angels on aerials in leather and chrome,
Swoopin' down from Heaven to carry me home"
And he gave her one last kiss and died
And he gave her his Vincent to ride

Notes:

Written by Richard Thompson for his 1991 album "Rumor and Sigh."
Richard is a guitar player from England who got his big break playing for the band Fairport Convention in 1967. Through the 70s and he toured with his wife, Linda Thompson. In the 1980s, Linda and Richard split and Richard started to pursue his solo career. The 1952 Vincent Black Lightning is a rare motorcycle – only 30 were made.

Del McCoury was more of a traditional bluegrass artist – most notably singing and playing guitar with Bill Monroe in 1963 before forming his own band, The Dixie Pals, through the 70s and 80s. In the 90s, with his two sons, Ronnie on mandolin and Rob on banjo – along with Jason Carter on fiddle – Del formed the Del McCoury Band. With this band, Del started to incorporate more non-traditional bluegrass songs into his repertoire. In 2001, Del recorded 1952 Vincent Black Lightning on his album "Del and the Boys." The song would become a bluegrass favourite.

The song typically is sung with no harmony.

A Hundred Years From Now

David McEnery (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1957)

Key of F, 117 bpm

Chords	Chords (Capo 3 rd Fret)
F F F F C C C C	D D D D A A A A
C C C C F F F F	A A A A D D D D
F F F F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$	D D D D G G G G
C C C C F F F F	A A A A D D D D

Lyrics:

I V
 Lord a hundred years from now I won't be crying
 I
 A hundred years from now I won't be blue
 IV
 And my heart would have forgotten that you broke every
 vow
 I V I
 I won't care a hundred years from now

Lord it seems that it was yesterday you told me
 You couldn't live without my love somehow
 Now that you're with another it breaks my heart somehow
 I won't care a hundred years from now

Chorus

Now do you recall the night sweetheart you promised
 Another's kiss you never would allow
 That's all in the past dear it didn't seem to last
 I won't care a hundred years from now

Chorus

Notes:

Sometimes this song is attributed to Silvio Hein, George Hobart and Edwin Milton Royle. Their song is titled "I Won't Care (A Hundred Years From now)" – but it is a different song (different lyrics and melody). This song was originally recorded by country duo Bob Atcher and Bonnie Blue Eyes on June 18, 1940. It was written by David McEnery, a yodeling cowboy and lasso twirler at rodeos. He also wrote the song "Amelia Earhart's Last Flight."

Flatt and Scruggs recorded this song March 24, 1957. It was released as the A-side, with the B-side being "I Won't Be Hanging Around" November 25, 1957. Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so their instruments were tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So while the key of this song is "F," the band would have been playing it with chord shapes of the key of "E."

The Bluegrass Album Band released their version on "Vol. 3 – California Connection."

This song is typically sung with no harmony.

Ain't No Ash Will Burn

Walt Aldridge (ver. Della Mae, 2013)

Key of C, 103 BPM (3/4 time)

Chords

| C | F | G | C | C | F | G | C |
| C | F | G | A^m | C | F | G | C |

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

| G | C | D | G | G | C | D | G |
| G | C | D | E^m | G | C | D | G |

Lyrics:

I IV V I
I have seen snow that fell in May
 IV V I
And I have seen rain on cloudless days
 IV V vim
Somethings are always bound to change
 IV V I
Oh there ain't no ash will burn

Love is a precious thing I'm told
It burns just like West Virginia coal
But when the fire dies down it's cold
Oh there ain't no ash will burn

You say this life is not your lot
Well I can't be someone that I'm not
We can't stoke a fire that we ain't got
Oh there ain't no ash will burn

Chorus

In every life there comes a time
Where there are no more tears to cry
We must leave someone dear behind
No there ain't no ash will burn

Chorus

Notes:

Walt Aldridge was known as a "Muscle Shoals" songwriter – a famous music studio in Sheffield Alabama, formed in 1969 that became known for southern rock music and R & B, sometimes also associated with "swamp music." Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, Willie Nelson, Bob Seger, John Prine and many others recorded there. Aldridge wrote a number of songs for 1990s country musicians, and this was one of his many songs.

The song was first recorded by the short-lived western swing, country and bluegrass band Ranch Romance in 1993. That same year, Alice Gerrard would record a version of the song on her album "Pieces of My Heart." Alice's version would cement the song in the bluegrass catalog. Since then, it has been recorded by The Renegades in 1995, Mollie O'Brien (Tim O'Brien's sister) in 1998 and by the band Della Mae in 2013 on their self-titled album.

The song features two or three-part harmony on the chorus.

Are You Missing Me?

Charlie and Ira Louvin (ver. Jim and Jesse and the Virginia Boys, 1952)

Key of G, 117 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
G G C C G G G G	D D G G D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D
G G C C G G G G	D D G G D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D
Chorus	Chorus
G G G G G G G G	D D D D D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D
G G G G G G G G	D D D D D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D

Lyrics:

I IV I
The day that I kissed you and told you goodbye

V I
Your lips told me that you would wait
But your lips deceived me and told me a lie
While your heart was sealing my fate

I
Are you all alone
V I
With a memory
Now that I am gone
Darling, are you missing me

Out of the clear sky a letter then came
And just like a bolt from the blue
My castles came tumbling as I read it o'er
I still can't believe that it's true

Chorus

It's said that in spite of the vows you had made
The glitter of gold turns your head
And while I was trying employment to find
You married another instead

Chorus

Notes:

In the 1950s, the Louvin Brothers were still trying to make their big break in country music. They had recorded a number of demos of songs they had written. One of those songs, "Are You Missing Me" was recorded by another brother group trying to break into the country/bluegrass scene. They were signed by Capital Records and the demo "Are You Missing Me" would be the first song they recorded and released with Capital Records in 1952 as an A-side (the B-side was "I'll What Your Love From My Heart). This song became popular as the Korean War was going on at this time.

As a side note, Charlie Louvin would play with Jesse McReynolds as they were both serving in Korea. They would play in Officer's Clubs as the band The Dusty Roads Band from 1952 to 1954.

Mac Wiseman would record his version of this song on the 1962 album "Bluegrass Favourites." In 1976 The Bluegrass Cardinals would record their version of "Are You Missing Me" on their self-titled debut album. More recently, Herb Pedersen and Chris Hillman recorded a version on their 2002 album "Way Out West."

The song is sung as a duet on the chorus.

Ashes of Love

Jack Anglin, Jim Anglin and Johnnie Wright (ver. Jim and Jesse And The Virginia Boys, 1974)

Key of A, 124 BPM

Chords

	A	A		A	A		D	A		E	E	
	E	E		E	E		E	E		A	A	
	A	A		A	A		D	A		E	E	
	E	E		E	E		E	E		A	A	

Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)

	G	G		G	G		C	C		D	D	
	D	D		D	D		D	D		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		D	D	
	D	D		D	D		D	D		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV I V
Ashes of love, cold as ice

I
You made the debt and I'll pay the price

IV I V
Our love is gone, there's no doubt

V
Ashes of love, the flame burned out

The love light that gleamed in your eyes
Has gone out to my surprise
We said goodbye my heart bled
I can't revive our love is dead

Chorus

I trusted you, our love would stand
Your every wish was my command
My heart tells me I must forget
I loved you then I love you yet

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Johnnie and Jack, a popular country music act in 1940s and 50s (Johnnie Wright and Jack Anglin). Johnnie and Jack first released this song in 1951. This song has been covered by many country artists, including Kitty Wells, New Riders of the Purple Sage and The Desert Rose Band.

Jim and Jesse released it on their album "Superior Sounds of Bluegrass" in 1974. Jim and Jesse would straddle the gap between bluegrass and country music. Jesse McReynolds, on mandolin, developed two unique methods of mandolin picking – "crosspicking" and "split string." His crosspicking method was "up-up-down" which created a very unique, syncopated roll and is counter to typical guitar crosspicking, which is typically played "down-down-up."

They also released this album on Jim and Jesse Show (Live in Japan), released in 1976.

The chorus is typically sung as a duo.

Back to the Barrooms

Merle Haggard, Dave Kirby (ver. J.D. Crowe and the New South, 1950)

Key of Bb, 118 BPM

Chords

	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		F	F	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		F	F	
	F	F		F	F		F	F		B $\flat$	B $\flat$	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$				

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	D	D		D	D		D	D		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		G	G				

Lyrics:

	I		IV	
Now	it's	back	to the	barrooms
I			V	
Right	back	to	drinkin'	again
	I		IV	
Maybe	someday	you'll	love me	enough to stay with me
	I		V	
And	whisky	won't	be my	best friend
			I	
Now	it's	back	to the	barrooms again

Now the bartender knows me, he knows how you do me
 And he knows why I'm back here again
 He must be given a prize for his patience
 For bartenders do understand
 Now it's back to the barrooms again

Chorus

With the loud music roarin', the bartender pourin'
 My shaky legs tryin' to stand
 It's over and over I've tried to stay sober
 But, look what a failure I've been
 Now it's back to the barrooms again

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

This song was written by Merle Haggard and Dave Kirby. Merle Haggard is a country music legend, writing and recording songs such as "Mamma Tried," "Okie from Muskogee," "Fightin' Side of Me," and many more. Dave Kirby wrote "(Is Anybody Going to) San Antone" – made famous by Charlie Pride. He also wrote songs for Waylon Jennings, George Jones, Johnny Cash and many other country artists. This song was released on October 10, 1980 on Merle Haggard's album, titled "Back to the Barrooms."

JD Crowe recorded this song in 1999 with his band The New South. This band has had a number of different iterations, including Tony Rice and Keith Whitley. This configuration had Rickey Wasson on guitar, Dwight McCall on mandolin and Phil Ledbetter on dobro. Curt Chapman is on upright bass and Glen Duncan is on fiddle. JD Crowe, especially with Keith Whitley, has taken a number of different country songs and brought them over to the bluegrass genre.

This song has three part harmony on the chorus, with the exception of the line "Maybe someday you'll love me enough to stay with me and whiskey won't be my best friend" – which is sung solo.

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

R. Fisher Boyce (ver. Stanley Brothers, 1964)

Key of E, 61BPM

Chords	Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)
E E E E A A E E	C C C C F F C C
E E E E B B B B	C C C C G G G G
E E E E A A E E	C C C C F F C C
E E B B E A E E	C C G G C F C C

Lyrics:

I
 Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem
 IV I
 Shining far through shadows dimmed
 V
 Giving a life to those who long have gone
 I
 And guiding the wise men on their way
 IV I
 Unto the place where Jesus lay
 V I IV I
 Beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

 Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem
 Shine upon us until the glory dawn
 Give us the light to light the way
 Unto the land of perfect day
 Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

 Oh beautiful star the hope of light
 Guiding the pilgrims through the night
 Over the mountains 'till the break of dawn
 Into the land of perfect day
 It will give out a lovely ray
 Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

Chorus

Oh beautiful star the hope, the grace
 For the redeem of good and blessed
 Yonder in glory when the crowd is one
 For Jesus is now the star divine
 Brighter and brighter he will shine
 Oh beautiful star of Bethlehem shine on

Chorus

Notes:

Written by R. Fisher Boyce. When R. Fisher couldn't concentrate due to his children making too much noise in the house, he walked across the road to the barn and wrote the song. His daughter, Nanny Lou, worked with her father later that day at the piano, putting music to the lyrics. R. Fisher received a one-time payment for the song, and publishing rights (and royalties) went to Adger M. Pace, Music Editor for Vaughan publications.

In April of 1964, The Stanley Brothers recorded a version of "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" and released it on their album "Hymns of the Cross." Featured prominently is the cross-picking of George Shuffler. Ralph Stanley would record the song once again in 1977 with Keith Whitley on vocals, on the album "Clinch Mountain Gospel." Larry Sparks, Rhonda Vincent, and Emmy Lou Harris have also recorded versions, just to name a few. Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent also recorded a beautiful version of the song (available on the compilation album "Christmas Grass Volume 2").

The Stanley Brothers sang the song as a trio, with "high baritone." However, it is also sung as a duet.

Big Spike Hammer

Bobby Osborne and Pete Goble (ver. Osborne Brothers, 1965)
Key of B, 122 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
B B B B G ^{#m} G ^{#m} G ^{#m} G ^{#m}	G G G G Em Em Em Em
E E E E G ^{#m} G ^{#m} G ^{#m} G ^{#m}	C C C C Em Em Em Em
B B B B B B G ^{#m} G ^{#m}	G G G G G G Em Em
E E E E G ^{#m} G ^{#m} G ^{#m} G ^{#m}	C C C C Em Em Em Em
F [#] F [#] F [#] F [#]	D D D D
Chorus	Chorus
B B B B B B B B	G G G G G G G G
B B B B B B B B	G G G G G G G G

Lyrics:

I VIm
Can't you hear the rattle of my big spike hammer

IV VIm
Lord it's busting my side

I VIm IV
I've done all I can do to keep that woman

VIm V
Still she's not satisfied

Hey hey Della Mae
Why do you treat me this 'a way
Hey hey Della Mae
I'll get even some day

I'm the best hammer swinger in this big section gang
Big Bill Johnson is my name
Lord this hammer that I swing for a dollar and a half a day
It's all for my Della Mae

Chorus

Now I've been lots of places, not much I ain't done
There's still a lot of things I'd like to see
Big spike hammer that I swing or the woman that I love
Yeah one's gonna be the death of me

Chorus
Big spike hammer, big spike hammer

Notes:

Pete Goble is one of bluegrass' most prolific songwriters, penning Colleen Malone, Tennessee 1949 and Blue Virginia Blues, just to name a few.

This song was recorded by the Osborne Brothers in October 7, 1965 in Nashville and released on the album "Up This Hill and Down" in 1966. It was also recorded by Doc and Merle Watson in 1967 on the album "Home Sweet Home." Additionally, it is on the third release by the Bluegrass Album Band, California Connection (Volume 3).

Typically it is sung with three-part harmony on the chorus.

Blue Moon of Kentucky

Bill Monroe (ver. Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys - 1947)

Key of Bb 105 BPM

Chords

Verse

| Bb | Bb | Eb | Eb | Bb | Bb | F | F |
| Bb | Bb | Eb | Eb | Bb | F | Bb | Bb |

Chorus

Eb	Eb	Bb	Bb	Eb	Eb	Bb	
F	F	Bb	Bb	Eb	Eb	Bb	F
Bb	Bb						

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	G G	G G
C C	C C	D D	D D
C C	C C	G G	G G
C C	C D	G G	G G

Chorus

C C	C C	G G	G G
C C	C C	D D	D D
C C	C C	G G	G G
C C	C D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I IV
Blue moon of Kentucky keep on shining
I V
Shine on the one that's gone and proved untrue
I IV
Blue moon of Kentucky keep on shining
I V I
Shine on the one that's gone and left me blue

IV
It was on a moonlight night
I
The stars were shining bright
IV
And they whispered from on high
I V
Your love has said good-bye

Blue moon of Kentucky keep on shining
Shine on the one that's gone and said good-bye

Repeat

Notes:

Written in 1946 by Bill Monroe and recorded in 1947 with Bill Monroe on mandolin and lead vocals, Earl Scruggs on banjo, Lester Flatt on guitar, Chubby Wise on fiddle and Howard Watts on upright bass. Originally, the entire song was a waltz. In 1954 Elvis Presley and his band were recording in Sun Studios. While searching for a "B-side" to "That's All Right," Bill Black, bass player, suggested Blue Moon of Kentucky.. Scotty Moore, Elvis Presley and Bill Black started playing it as an up-tempo, 4/4 song. Sam Phillips, Sun Record Owner, exclaimed "Boy, that's fine. That's a pop song now."

Elvis Presley sang the song on the Grande Ole Opry. Elvis approached Bill backstage and apologized for taking liberties with his song; however, Monroe reacted with generosity. In September of 1954, Monroe re-recorded "Blue Moon of Kentucky," singing the first two verses in the waltz, then resinging the verses in 4/4 time.

In 1954, The Stanley Brothers recorded a version very similar to the style of Elvis Presley's version.

Through the years, many artists have recorded the song, including Patsy Cline, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Ray Charles.

Additionally, many bluegrass artists have covered this song. The Osborne Brothers recorded a version on their 1969 album "Up to Date and Down to Earth." IIIrd Tyme Out recorded a version in 1998 from their live album "Live at the MAC (The Mountain Arts Centre).

Typically the song is sung with no harmony.

Blue Night

David Kirk McGee (ver. Hot Rize, 1979)

Key of B 113 BPM

Key of E F# D#m															
<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>							
Verse								Verse							
	B	B		B	B		B	B		B	B		B	B	
	B	B		B	B		E	E		E	E				
	B	B		E	E		B	B		B	B				
	F#	F#		F#	F#		B	B		B	B				

Lyrics:

I
Blue night I got you on my mind
IV
Blue night can't keep from crying
I IV
You found someone that was new
I
And you quit someone that you knew was true
V I
Blue night got you on my mind

Blue night blue as I can be
Well I don't know what's become of me
Where we used to walk I walk alone
With an aching heart because my love is gone
Blue night blue as I can be

Blue night I'm all alone
I used to call you on the telephone
Well I used to call and it made you glad
Now I call and it makes you mad
Blue night I'm all alone

Blue night all by myself
Since you put me on the shelf
Well there's just one thing you should know
You're gonna reap just what you sow
Blue night, all by myself
Blue night, all by myself

Notes:

The McGee Brothers were an old-time duo of Sam and Kirk McGee. Sam played guitar and Kirk would play fiddle or banjo. They first appeared on the Grande Ole Opry in 1926. They were a part of Uncle Dave Macon's band, The Fruit Jar Drinkers. They were also in Arthur Smith's band, the Dixie Liners. And in 1940 they toured with Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys.

Hot Rize were a band formed by Tim O'Brien on mandolin, Charles Sawtelle on guitar, Pete Wernick on banjo and Nick Forster on bass. They all were a part of the Colorado music scene in the late 70s – though none of them were original residents of Colorado. The name "Hot Rize" comes from the leavening agent in Martha White Flour. Martha White sponsored the Flatt and Scruggs show through the 50s. In the 80s, the flour company would sponsor the band "Hot Rize." Hot Rize would also perform as a Western swing band called Red Knuckles and the Trailblazers (all adopting different personas and playing different instruments). Charles Sawtelle died of leukaemia in 1999. More recently, Hot Rize has been touring with Bryan Sutton on guitar. Hot Rize recorded this song on their self-titled debut album in 1979.

This song was originally recorded with no harmony.

Blue Ridge Cabin Home

Louise Certain and Gladys Stacey (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1955)
Key of Bb, 126 BPM

Chords

B $\flat$ B $\flat$	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	E $\flat$ E $\flat$	E $\flat$ E $\flat$
F F	F F	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	B $\flat$ B $\flat$
B $\flat$ B $\flat$	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	E $\flat$ E $\flat$	E $\flat$ E $\flat$
F F	F F	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	B $\flat$ B $\flat$

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

G G	G G	C C	C C
D D	D D	G G	G G
G G	G G	C C	C C
D D	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I IV
There's a well beaten path on this old mountainside
V I
Where I wandered when I was a lad
IV
And I wandered alone to the place I call home
V I
In those Blue Ridge hills far away

[Chorus]

Oh I love those hills of old Virginia
From those Blue Ridge hills I did roam
When I die won't you bury me on the mountain
Far away near my Blue Ridge mountain home

Now my thoughts wander back to the ramshackle shack
In those Blue Ridge hills far away
My mother and dad they're laid there to rest
They are sleeping in peace together there

Chorus

I return to that old cabin home with a sigh
I've been longing for days gone by
When I die won't you bury me on that old mountainside
Make my resting place upon the hills so high

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Credited to "Certain and Stacey," the maiden names of the wives of Earls Scruggs and Lester Flatt, this song was likely written by Lester Flatt.

This song was recorded by Flatt and Scruggs on September 2, 1955 and is found on the album "Foggy Mountain Jamboree." Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so their instruments were tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So while this song is in the key of Bb, they would have been playing in A positions. Other notable recordings include The Osborne Brothers album "Bluegrass Collection" and JD Crowe, Tony Rice, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks and Todd Phillips - The Bluegrass Album.

This is a classic "jam" song. Originally, the chorus was a duet (lead and high tenor). However, many times, it is sung as a trio on the chorus.

Born With a Hammer in My Hand

Shawn Lane and Tim Stafford (ver. Blue Highway, 1999)
Key of B, 131 BPM

Key of E, 1st F#										Key of E, 1st F#																												
<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>																												
Verse										Verse																												
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B										G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G							
	B	B		B	B		E	E		E	E										G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C							
	B	B		B	B		B	B		B	B										G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G							
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B										G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G							

Lyrics:

I V I
I was born with a hammer in my hand

IV

It's the kind of life I doubt you'd understand

I

I'd give anything just to hear the cold steel ring

V

I was born with a hammer in my hand

Swingin' steel's the only life I've known
I've never been afraid to be alone
Hope my Mama understands I'll always be a working man
Cause I was born with a hammer in my hand

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man
You could hear his hammer ring across the land
But before the steam drill came, John Henry knew my name
Cause I was born with a hammer in my hand

The bossman tries to break a good man's back
It takes thirty men to lay a mile of track
If the shaker holds the line they'll be thirty miles behind me
I was born with a hammer in my hand

John Henry was a steel drivin' man
You could hear his hammer ring across the land
But if you put us side by side, he'd have to run and hide
Cause I was born with a hammer in my hand

Yes I'll die with a hammer in my hand

Notes:

Written by the Shawn Lane and Tim Stafford, mandolin and guitar players for Blue Highway. This song was nominated for the 2000 IBMA Song of the Year.

Recorded in 1999 by Blue Highway, shortly after banjo player, Jason Burleson, had left the band. Tom Adams was the banjo player on this recording (Jason would go back to the band in September of 2000). It is on the self-titled album "Blue Highway."

There is no vocal harmony
in this song.

Bury Me Beneath The Willow

Traditional (ver. Skaggs and Rice, 1980)

Key of G, 90 BPM

Chords

	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

	D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	
	D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A	
	D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	
	D	D		A	A		D	D		D	D	

Lyrics:

I IV
My heart is sad and I am lonely
I V
For the only one I love
I IV
When shall I see her oh no never
I V I
'Til we meet in heaven above

Oh, bury me beneath the willow
Under the weeping willow tree
So she will know where I am sleeping
And perhaps she'll weep for me

She told me that she dearly loved me
How could I believe it untrue
Until the angels softly whispered
She will prove untrue to you

Chorus

Tomorrow was our wedding day
Oh God oh God where can she be
She's out a courting with another
And no longer cares for me

Chorus

Notes:

Sometimes credited to A.P. Carter, this was one of the first songs recorded by The Carter Family on August 1, 1927 in Bristol, Tennessee. The Carter Family did not write the song. They learned the song from Bradley Kincaid, but it is very likely Kincaid learned it from another person.

The recommended version to listen to is Ricky Skaggs and Tony Rice's version from "Skaggs & Rice" – an album of brother-duet songs released in 1980. It is also on the album "Sleep With One Eye Open" recorded by Chris Thile & Michael Daves.

The chorus is typically sung as a duo.

Can't You Hear Me Callin'

Bill Monroe (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1950)

Key of G, 95 BPM

<u>Chords</u>												<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>											
	G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G			D	D		D	D		D	D		
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G			G	G		D	D		D	D		
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G			G	G		D	D		D	D		
	C	C		D	D		G	G		G	G			A	A		A	A		D	D		

Lyrics:

I
The days are long, the nights are lonely
IV I
Since you've left me all alone
IV I
I loved you so, my little darlin'
IV V I
I've worried so since you've been gone

Sweetheart of mine, can't you hear me callin'
A million times I've loved you best
I mistreated you, lord and I'm sorry
Come back to me is my request

I remember, now, the night we parted
A big mistake had caused it all
If you return, sunshine will follow
To stay away would be my fall

Chorus

The days are dark, my little darlin'
Oh how I need your sweet embrace
When I awoke the sun was shinin'
When I looked up, I saw your face

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Bill Monroe, recorded on October 22, 1949 and released in March 1950 as an A-side (the B-side was "Travellin' This Lonesome Road"). Mac Wiseman was on guitar and vocals, Rudy Lyle on banjo, Chubby Wise on fiddle and Jack Thompson on upright bass. They also recorded the B-side as well as Blue Grass Stomp and The Girl in the Blue Velvet Band.

The song has become a standard for bluegrass – including being the title of the 2001 biography on Bill Monroe, written by Richard Smith ("Can't You Hear Me Callin': The Life of Bill Monroe, Father of Bluegrass"). Country Gentlemen recorded a version for their 1963 album "Folk Session Inside." Boone Creek recorded a version on the 1978 album "One Way Track," as well as a country version on his album "Highways & Heartaches." Del McCoury recorded a version on the album "True Life Blues: The Songs of Bill Monroe" from 1996. And more recently, Crooked Still recorded a version on their album "Shaken By a Low Sound" in 2006 and Volume Five has a version on their album "Children of the Morning" 2011.

The chorus is typically sung as a duet.

Carolina in the Pines

Michael Martin Muprhey (ver. Special Consensus, 2002)
Key of B, 140 BPM

Chords					Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)									
B	B	B	B	C ^{#m} C ^{#m}	C ^{#m} C ^{#m}	G	G	G	G	A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m			
E	E	E	E	B	B	C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	
C ^{#m} C ^{#m}	C ^{#m} C ^{#m}	D ^{#m} D ^{#m}	D ^{#m} D ^{#m}	A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m	B ^m B ^m	B ^m B ^m	C	C	D	D	G	G	
E	E	F [#] F [#]	B	B	B	B	C	C	D	D	G	G	G	G

Lyrics:

I IIm
 She came to me, said she knew me
 IV I
 Said she'd known me a long time
 IIM IIM
 And she spoke of being in love
 IV V I
 With every mountain she had climbed

 And she talked of trails she'd walked up
 Far above the timberline
 From that night on I knew I'd write songs
 With Carolina in the pines

There's a new moon on the fourteenth
 First quarter the 21st
 And the full moon in the last week
 Brings a fullness to this earth

There's no guesswork in the clockwork
 On the worlds part or of mine
 There are nights I only feel right
 With Carolina in the pines

When the frost shows on the windows
 And the wood stove smokes and glows
 As the fire grows we can warm our souls
 Watching rainbows in the cove

And we'll talk of trails we've walked up
 Far above the timberline
 There are nights I only feel right
 With Carolina in the pines

Notes:

Carolina in the Pines was written by Michael Martin Murphey. It was released in August of 1975 and reached #21 on the U.S. Billboard top 100 chart. Martin wrote the song for his wife, Caroline. John McEuen, banjo player for The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, played banjo on the 1975 recording

Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver released this song on the album "Once & For Always" in 1985. In 2002 Special Consensus recorded a version for the album "Route 10."

The choruses (every second quatrain that ends "With Carolina in the pines" are sung with harmony.

Christmas Time's a Comin'

Tex Logan (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1951)

Key of F, 105 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Chorus F F F F C C C C F F F F C C F F F F Verse F F F F B$\flat$ B$\flat$ B$\flat$ B$\flat$ F F F F F C C F F F F	Chorus C C C C G G G G C C C C G G C C C C Verse C C C C F F F F C C C C C G G C C C C

Lyrics:

I V
 Christmas time's a comin', Christmas time's a comin'
 I V I
 Christmas time's a comin' and I know I'm going home

Snowflakes a' falling, my old home's a calling
 Tall pines are humming, Christmas time's a coming

I IV
 Can't you hear them bells ringing, ringing joy, joy hear them singing
 I V I
 When it's snowing I'll be going back to my country home

Chorus 1

White candles burning, my old heart's a yearning
 For the folks at home when Christmas time's a coming

Chorus 2
 Chorus 1

Holly's in the window, home where the wind blows
 Can't walk for running, Christmas time's a comin'

Chorus 2
 Chorus 1

Notes:

Written by Benjamin "Tex" Logan. Logan had a B.Sc in electrical engineering and completed his Masters at MIT. And a Ph.D. at Columbia University, working at Bell Labs. He initially played with Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper from 1949 to 1951. Before joining up with the Lilly Brothers. Will with the Lilly's, he wrote "Christmas Time's A Comin'," but had Bill Monroe in mind. Logan was able to play and sing the song for Bill, who agreed to record it in 1951.

Released in November of 1951 as the A-side (the B-side was The First Whipporwill). Tex Logan was supposed to play fiddle on the recording, but due to a traffic accident, was unable to make it in time for the recording session. Monroe played the fiddle break over the phone for Tex to ensure he was happy with the recording (which he was). The song would become a favourite of radio DJs at the time to play for the Christmas holidays. It has also been covered by many bluegrass and country artists – including Dolly Parton, Rhonda Vincent, Ricky Skaggs and many more.

Typically sung with both choruses as a trio.

Cold Wind

Roy McMillan (ver. Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys, 1983)
Key of C, 163 BPM

Chords

Verse

```
| C  C | C  C | C  C | C  C |
| C  C | C  C | F  F | F  F |
| C  C | C  C | C  C | Am Am |
| Am Am | C  C | G  G | C  C |
| C  C |
```

Chorus

```
| C  C | C  C | C  C | C  C |
| C  C | C  C | C  C | C  C |
| C  C | C  C | F  F | F  F |
| F  F | F  F | F  F | F  F |
| C  C | C  C | C  C | Am Am |
| Am Am | Am Am | Am Am | C  C |
| G  G | C  C | C  C |
```

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

Verse

```
| G  G | G  G | G  G | G  G |
| G  G | G  G | C  C | C  C |
| G  G | G  G | G  G | Em Em |
| Em Em | G  G | D  D | G  G |
| G  G |
```

Chorus

```
| G  G | G  G | G  G | G  G |
| G  G | G  G | G  G | G  G |
| G  G | G  G | C  C | C  C |
| C  C | C  C | C  C | C  C |
| G  G | G  G | G  G | Em Em |
| Em Em | Em Em | Em Em | G  G |
| D  D | G  G | G  G |
```

Lyrics:

I
Who's that knockin' on my door
Hard times (hard times) (hard times)
What's that blowing in my window
IV
Cold wind (cold wind) (cold wind)
I vim
Let the cold wind blow and the hard times go
I V I
Ain't gonna worry no more.

I
Now summer's gone and winter times a' comin'
IV
And the cold winter winds gonna blow
I vim
You should come on home and I wouldn't be alone
I V I
Wouldn't have to worry any more

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Roy McMillan first heard Bill Monroe when he was 8-years old and immediately started playing mandolin. Roy worked, but in evenings played bluegrass. While working with the Blue Ridge Partners, Roy started writing songs. Roy left the Partners to form his own band, The High Country Boys. The band's talent and performing their own material caught the attention of Rebel Records, who signed the band. They recorded their first album in 1972, and this song was one of the originals on that album.

Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys recorded this song in 1983. They titled the album after this track. The Circuit Riders also recorded this album in 2006 on the album Let the Ride Begin.

The verse is sung as a trio, with staggered harmony on the second and fourth line.

Columbus Stockade Blues

Traditional (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys 1963)

Key of G, 83 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>							
Verse								Verse							
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G	A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	D	G	G	G ⁷	G ⁷	A	A	A	A	D	D	D ⁷	D ⁷
Chorus								Chorus							
C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D
C	C	C	C	D	D	D!	-	G	G	G	G	A	A	A!	-
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G	A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D

Lyrics:

I
Way down in Columbus, Georgia
V I
Wanted back in Tennessee
Way down in Columbus Stockade
Friends have turned their backs on me

IV I
Go and leave me if you wish to
IV V
Never let me cross your mind
I
In your heart you love another
V I
Leave me darling, I don't mind

Last night as I lay sleeping
I dreamed I held you in my arms
When I awoke I was mistaken
I was peering through the bars

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

The Columbus Stockade is a real place. It existed as two buildings and served as a jail and police headquarters starting from the 1850s. In 1906 it was joined together into one structure and still stands today.

The first known recording of this song was from 1927 by Tom Darby and Timmy Tarlton. While this recording would have influenced many early singers of this song, the actual song likely predates this duo. Darby and Tarlton sang blues-influenced duets through the 1920s and were quite influential on the later brother acts of the 30s and 40s. In April of 1927, with Darby playing guitar and singing lead and Tarlton on steel guitar and singing tenor harmonies, recorded "Birmingham Jail" and "Columbus Stockade Blues" for Columbia Records. "Columbus Stockade Blues" would sell more than 200,000 copies and become a country, bluegrass, blues and jazz standard.

Bill Monroe sang this song on the Grande Ole Opry with his Blue Grass Boys on July 18, 1942. He would record and release it on his 1963 album "Bluegrass Special." Doc Watson would record a version in a minor key on his 1975 album "Memories." The song can also be found on "Billy Ray Latham Presents The Kentucky Colonels - Live in Stereo" which was recorded January 15th, 1965 in Vancouver. You can find many recordings of this song with

The 1963 recording has the tenor harmony only on the choruses. However, this song can be sung as a duet (NOTE: The 1942 recording by Bill Monroe has harmony through the entire song and is significantly faster - at ~150 bpm).

Cora is Gone

Odell McLeod (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1950)

Key of Eb, 190 BPM, 3/4

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
Eb Eb Ab Eb Eb Eb Bb Bb	C C F C C C G G
Eb Eb Ab Eb Eb Bb Eb Eb	C C F C C G C C
Chorus	Chorus
Ab Ab Eb Eb Ab Ab Eb Eb	F F C C F F C C
Eb Eb Ab Eb Eb Bb Eb Eb	C C F C C G C C

Lyrics:

I
Winds through the night, blowing so lonesome

V
Singing to me a song

I
A whippoorwill call is just a reminder

V I
Pretty girls have hearts made of stone

IV I
I'll wake with the blues at dawn

IV I
My darling Corey is gone

I don't know why she told me goodbye

V I
But my darling Corey is gone

The ring that she wears I bought for her finger
Purchased her raiment so fine
Gave her my last green back dollar
And now she's left me behind

Chorus

Drifting along like brush on the river
Caring not where I roam
Going to live in a deep forest
Dark hollow will be my new home

Chorus

Notes:

Odell McLeod, also known as Mac Odell, was a singer-songwriter from Alabama. He worked at Mercury Records from 1949 to 1952 and wrote songs that included "Thirty Pieces of Silver" and "From the Manger to the Cross," in addition to "Cora is Gone."

Recorded October 1950. Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal to better match Lester's voice. So to play along with the original recording, a capo is required on the first fret or you need to retune. J.D. Crowe, Tony Rice, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks and Todd Phillips (with Jerry Douglas) did a version on the 1985 album "The Bluegrass Album Volume Four."

Originally, the song was sung solo by Lester Flatt. The Bluegrass Album Band sung the chorus as a trio, with "I don't know why she told me good bye" sung solo.

Crooked Tree

Melody Walker/Molly Tuttle (ver. Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway, 2022)

Key of B, 110 BPM

Chords

Verse

B B	B B	B B	B B
G#mG#m	G#mG#m	G#mG#m	G#mG#m
E E	E E	E E	E E
B B	B B	B B	B B

Chorus

G#mG#m	G#mG#m	E E	E E
B B	B	F# F#	F# F#
G#mG#m	G#mG#m	E E	E E
B B	F#	B B	B B

Chords (Capo 4th Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	G G	G G
Em Em	Em Em	Em Em	Em Em
C C	C C	C C	C C
G G	G G	G G	G G

Chorus

Em Em	Em Em	C C	C C
G G	G	D D	D D
Em Em	Em Em	C C	C C
G G	D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I
 Two trees in the forest one was crooked, one was straight
 VIm
 Crimson bark and emerald needles growing day by day
 IV
 And though they looked so different they enjoyed the rain the same
 I
 Side by side
 A chickadee had told them of a darkness on the land
 Spinning blades that came to visit carried by a man
 And every other tree would see them cut down where they stand
 By and by
 Vim IV I V
 Oh, can't you see? A crooked tree won't fit into the mill machine
 Vim IV I V I
 They're left to grow wild and free oh, I'd rather be a crooked tree

The perfect trees were driven down the mountain to the mill
 They turned them into toothpicks and twenty dollar bills
 It seemed the more the people took the more they needed still
 In the end

The crooked trees were left there after all the work was done
 Now they go for weeks and never witness anyone
 No one left to tell them if they're growing right or wrong
 But the whispering wind

Chorus

People say I'm different my way of life seems strange
 I took the road less traveled twists and turns along the way
 But like the crooked tree I'm growing stronger day by day
 As the clouds roll by

A river never wonders why it flows around the bend
 A mountain doesn't question how it rose up from the land
 So who am I to wish I wasn't just the way I am
 Who am I?

Chorus Twice

Notes:

Molly Tuttle grew up in Palo Alto, California. Her dad, Jack Tuttle is a significant teacher of multiple bluegrass instruments in the area. When Molly was 15, she formed her first band with her brothers Sullivan and Michael and AJ Lee (Tuttles and AJ Lee). While attending Berklee College of Music, she formed The Goodbye Girls with Allison DeGroot, Lena Jonnson and Brittany Karlson. After some solo albums, in 2021 Molly formed her current band Molly Tuttle and Golden Highway with Shelby Means on bass, Kyle Tuttle on banjo, Bronwyn Keith-Hynes on fiddle, and Dominick Leslie on mandolin. Molly has won IBMA guitar player and vocalist of the year. Molly was diagnosed with alopecia at a young age, which has resulted in total body hair loss.

The Crooked Tree album was released by Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway on April 1, 2022. This song was the title track. The album went on to win a Grammy for bluegrass album of the year. It also won the IBMA awards for album of the year and song of the year.

The chorus is sung in three part harmony. Also, as a nod to the title and theme of the song, the chorus is "crooked." A "crooked" song means that an additional beat is added or removed, disrupting the rhythm. In this case, a beat is "dropped."

Cry, Cry Darling

J. D. Miller and Jimmy C. Newman (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1958)

Key of A, 110 BPM, $\frac{3}{4}$

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
A A ⁷ D D A A E E ⁷	G G ⁷ C C G G D D ⁷
A A ⁷ D D A E A A	G G ⁷ C C G D G G
Chorus	Chorus
E E A A B B E E ⁷	D D G G A A D D ⁷
A A ⁷ D D A E A A	G G ⁷ C C G D G G

Lyrics:

I IV
Cry cry darling
I V
That's what I'll do if you should leave me with the blues
I IV
Cry cry darling
I V I
That's all I do cause you're the one that's in my heart
V I
For me there'll be no moonlight
II V
If ever we should part
Cry cry darling, that's all I do
'Cause you're the one that's in my heart
Cry cry darling
My eyes will cry and never dry if you should go
Cry cry darling
When shadows creep I'll just weep all night I know
You know how much I'd miss you
If ever we should part
Cry cry darling
That's all I do cause you're the one that's in my heart

Notes:

J.D. Miller was a music producer and songwriter in Louisiana specializing in Cajun and "swamp blues." He met Jimmy C. Newman in the 40s. With Miller's guidance, Jimmy Newman started to learn about the music business. Together, they co-wrote this song and Miller recorded it in 1954, where it reached #4 on the country charts.

Bill Monroe recorded this song and released it on the album "Knee Deep in Bluegrass" in 1958. Johnson Mountain Boys recorded a version on their 1988 album "Requests." More recently, Chris Thile and Michael Daves have a version on their album "Sleep With One Eye Open," recorded in 2011.

Originally, the chorus was sung with no harmony. Typically you will now hear this as a duet (sometimes trio) with the lines "For me there'll be no moonlight, if ever we should part" and "You know how much I'd miss you, if ever we should part" sung as solo.

Cryin' Holy

Traditional (ver. J.D. Crowe and The New South, 1975)

Key of B, 136 BPM

Chords

	B	B		B	B		B	B		B	B	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		B	B	
	B	B		B	B		B	B		B	B	
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B	

Chords (Capo 4th Fret)

	G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I
Cryin' holy unto the Lord

IV I
Cryin' holy unto the Lord

Lord if I could I surely would
V I
Stand on that rock where Moses stood

Lord I ain't no stranger now
Lord I ain't no stranger now
I've been introduced to the Father and the Son
Lord I ain't no stranger now

Chorus

Sinners run and hide your face
Sinners run and hide your face
Sinners run to the rock and hide your face
Rock cried out no hiding place

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

The Carter Family recorded a version of this song in 1930 with the title "On the Rock Where Moses Stood." However, it dates back further, with various black jubilee and quartet singers performing this song (it was recorded in 1924 by the Norfolk Jubilee Quartet). It likely came to A.P. Carter from Lesley Riddle, a black musician who worked with A.P. Carter, travelling around North Carolina and acting as "human tape recorder," memorizing the melody while A.P. Carter recorded the lyrics.

Irene Amburgey is sometimes credited with lyrics (later would change her name to Martha Carson)

Bill Monroe would sing this as a quartet with minimal instrumentation (typically guitar and bass). Flatt and Scruggs would also perform this as a duet. J.D. Crowe and The New South recorded this song (with drums and piano) on the self-titled "J.D. Crowe & The New South" album, sometimes known as the "Brown Album" or "Rounder 0044."

Sung as a quartet or a trio on the choruses, sometimes with an echo of "Holy Unto the Lord" during the first part of the chorus while the lead holds "holy" and "Lord."

Darby's Castle

Kris Kristofferson (ver. Country Gentlemen, 1980)
Key of G, 98 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>									
Verse										Verse									
G	G	G	G	C	C	A ^m	A ^m			D	D	D	D	G	G	E ^m	E ^m		
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G			A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D		
G	G	G	G	C	C	A ^m	A ^m			D	D	D	D	G	G	E ^m	E ^m		
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G			A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D		
Chorus										Chorus									
C	C	D	D	G	G	G	G			G	G	A	A	D	D	D	D		
C	C	G	G	D	D	D	D			G	G	D	D	A	A	A	A		
G	G	G	G	C	C	A ^m	A ^m			D	D	D	D	G	G	E ^m	E ^m		
D	D	C	C	D	D	D	D			A	A	G	G	A	A	A	A		
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G			A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D		

Lyrics:

I IV IIm
See the ruin on the hill, where the smoke is hanging still
V I
Like an echo of an age long forgotten
I IV IIm
There's a story of a home crushed beneath those blackened stones
V IV V
And the roof that fell before the beams were rotten

Cecil Darby loved his wife, and he laboured all his life
To provide her with material possessions
And he built for her a home of the finest wood and stone
And the building soon became his sole obsession
IV V I
Oh, it took three-hundred days, for the timbers to be raised
VI I V
And the silhouette was seen for miles around
I IV IIm
And the gables reached as high as the eagles in the sky
V IV V
But it only took one night to bring it down
I
When Darby's castle tumbled to the ground

Though they shared a common bed, there was precious little said
In the moments that were set aside for sleepin'
For his busy dreams were filled with the rooms he'd yet to build
And he never heard young Helen Darby weeping

Then one night he heard a sound, as he laid his pencil down
And he traced it to her door and turned the handle
And the pale light of the moon through the window of the room
Split the shadows where two bodies lay entangled

Chorus

Notes:

Kris Kristofferson first appeared in Sports Illustrated in March 1958 for achievements in rugby, football and track and field. That same year he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to the University of Oxford. In 1960 he joined the U.S. Army, becoming a helicopter and attending Ranger School. He was offered a teaching position at West Point, but decided to pursue music. He would go on to write classic songs such as "Me and Bobby McGee," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," "Help Me Make It Through the Night" and many more. In addition to a solo career, he was part of the supergroup The Highwaymen with Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings.

Country Gentlemen sprung out of the Washington D.C. music scene in 1957, after musician Buzz Busby suffered a car accident, and booked gigs had to be covered. The band is considered one of the first "urban" bluegrass bands. They were also the band considered to be part of the folk boom, and while they performed traditional bluegrass songs, they also incorporated more modern songs into their sets. Members of the band through the years include Bill Emerson, John Duffey, Eddie Adcock, Doyle Lawson, Mike Aldridge and many more, with the lower voice of Charlie Waller being the consistent band member through the years. Their sound relied heavily on three-part harmonies with a more folk music sound.

The song Darby's Castle was originally recorded by Knoxville Grass in 1978 on the album "Darby's Castle." The chord structure and melody strayed from the original version written by Kris Kristofferson and recorded by Roger Miller in 1969. The Country Gentlemen recorded the song in 1980 on their album Sit Down Young Stranger with Charlie Waller, Doyle Lawson, Bill Yates, James Bailey, Mike Aldridge and Spider Gilliam.

The song features three-part harmony on the first two and the last line of the chorus.

Dark Hollow

Traditional/Bill Browning (ver. The Kentucky Colonels, 1965)
Key of C, 105 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>									
	C	C		G	G		C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G		
	C	C		F	F		C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G		
	C	C		C ⁷	C ⁷		F	F		F	F		C	C		C	C		
	C	C		G	G		C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G		

Lyrics:

I V I
I'd rather be in some dark hollow
IV I
Where the sun don't never shine
I7 IV
Than to be home alone and knowing that you're gone
I V I
Would cause me to lose my mind

Then blow your whistle freight train
Carry me farther on down the track
Well I'm going away I'm leaving today
I'm going but I ain't coming back

I'd rather be in some dark hollow
Where the sun don't ever shine
Than to be in some big city
In a small room with your love on my mind

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Bill Browning likely adapted these lyrics from an earlier version of this song, but he copyrighted these lyrics and recorded the song in 1957 (for example, some of the lyrics can be found in some versions of "East Virginia Blues"). Country singer Jimmie Skinner recorded a version in 1958 that made it to the top of the Billboard charts.

In the early 60s Bill Monroe was performing this with The Blue Grass Boys at live shows (with a young Del McCoury on guitar and vocals). A number of different bluegrass artists put these songs on their albums in the 1960s and 70s. In 1964 a young David Grisman recorded a version (with Del McCoury on guitar and vocals). 1967 Mac Wiseman (self titled). J.D. Crowe and The Kentucky Mountain Boys "Bluegrass Holiday" in 1969. Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys "One Morning in May" in 1971. Country Gazette "What a Way to Make a Living" in 1977. Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers "Dark Hollow" released in 1982.

The version referenced is from the band Muleskinner album "A Potpourri of Bluegrass Jam" recorded March in 1973. Muleskinner . The band was formed by Peter Rowan (guitar), David Grisman (mandolin), Richard Greene (fiddle), Bill Keith (banjo) and John Kahn (bass) to be the band for Bill Monroe for a television program. Monroe's bus broke down so the band played the whole evening on their own. They were going to tour, but Clarence White was killed by a drunk driver July 14, 1973.

The chorus is typically sung as a duo. Muleskinner sung the entire song as a duo.

Devil in Disguise

Chris Hillman and Gram Parsons (ver. Bluegrass Album Band 1983)

Key of Bb, 117 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)</u>							
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G			E $\flat$	E $\flat$
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G			E $\flat$	E $\flat$

Lyrics:

IV I
 She's a devil in disguise
 You can see it in her eyes
 She's telling dirty lies
 She's a devil in disguise
 In disguise

Now a woman like that all she does is hate you
 She doesn't know what makes a man a man
 She'll talk about the times that she's been with you
 She'll speak your name to everyone she can

Chorus

Unhappiness has been her close companion
 Her world is full of jealousy and doubt
 It gets her off to see a person crying
 She's just the kind that you can't do without

Chorus

Her number always turns up in your pocket
 Whenever you are looking for a dime
 It's all right to call her but I'll bet you
 The moon is full and your just wasting time

Chorus

Notes:

This song was written by Chris Hillman and Gram Parsons for the first Flying Burrito Brothers album. The song was about a woman who "bedeviled" both Chris and Gram. She eventually dated David Crosby and they were engaged. The song was originally titled "Christine's Tune." While the song was in production, Christine tragically died in an automobile accident, so the title of the song was changed to "Devil in Disguise." The song was originally released on the 1969 album "The Gilded Palace of Sin" by The Flying Burrito Brothers.

J.D. Crowe recorded this song with Larry and Tony Rice on the Starday album, J.D. Crowe and the New South (not to be confused with the Rounder album, J.D. Crowe and the New South). Tony and J.D. would record the song again for the third Bluegrass Album Band album, California Connection, in 1983.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

Dim Lights, Thick Smoke (and Loud Loud Music)

Joe Maphis, Rose Lee Maphis and Max Fidler (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1952)

Key of F, 95 BPM

Chords					Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)				
F F	F F	F F	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	C C	C C	C C	F F	F F
F F	F F	F F	C ⁷ C ⁷	C ⁷ C ⁷	C C	C C	C C	G ⁷ G ⁷	G ⁷ G ⁷
F F	F F	F F	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	B $\flat$ B $\flat$	C C	C C	C C	F F	F F
F F	F F	C ⁷ C ⁷	F F	F F	C C	C C	G ⁷ G ⁷	C C	C C

Lyrics:

I IV
Dim lights, thick smoke, and loud, loud music
I V
Is the only kind of life you'll ever understand
I IV
Dim lights, thick smoke and loud, loud music
I V I
You'll never make a wife to a home-loving man

A home and little children mean nothing to you
A house filled with love and a husband so true
You'd rather have a drink with the first guy you meet
And the only home you know is the club down the street

Chorus

A drinking and dancing to a honky tonk band
Is the only kind of life you'll ever understand
Go on and have your fun, you think you've played it smart
I'm sorry for you and your honky tonk heart

Chorus

Notes:

Joe Maphis was born in Virginia but started his musical career after his family moved to Maryland. After playing in a number of different bands across Virginia, he joined the army in 1944, entertaining troops around the world. In 1946 he was discharged, moving to Virginia. His big break came when he moved to California in 1951 (after being invited to by Merle Travis and Johnny Bond. This song he wrote in 1952 after playing in Bakersfield. The story is he wrote this song after listening to Buck Owens perform at the Blackboard Café. While Joe Maphis wrote and performed it in 1952, Joe didn't record it until 1953. Flatt and Scruggs were the first to record the song.

Recorded November 1952 in Nashville as Side B. Flint Hill Special was the Side A. In addition to Flatt and Scruggs, Frank Wakefield and the Good Old Boys covered this song on the 1975 album "Pistol Packin' Mama" (with Don Reno on banjo, Chubby Wise on fiddle, Pat Campbell on bass and David Nelson on guitar). Benny Martin recorded a song (with Bobby Osborne on vocals) on his album "Big Daddy of the Fiddle & Bow" in 1979. Larry Sparks recorded a version on his album "Lonesome and Then Some" in 2014 (with Curly Seckler, Flatt and Scruggs mandolin player). Illrd Tyme Out recorded a version on their live album "Back to the MAC" and the Earls of Leicester recorded this song on their self-titled debut album.

Typically the chorus is sung as a trio.

Don't Neglect the Rose

Emma Smith (ver. Larry Sparks, 1987)

Key of G 80 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
G G G G G G G G	D D D D D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D
G G G G G G G G	D D D D D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D
G G	D D
Chorus	Chorus
G G G C G G G G	D D D G D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D
G G G C G G G G	D D D G D D D D
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D

Lyrics:

I
There stands a rose, down in your garden

V I
You left it there, so all alone
It's been neglected, feels unwanted
Since no love to it is shown

It's beauty now, is fastly fading
Once it was, the brightest red
It's withering fast, It's head is bowing
And no kind words, to it are said

Please don't neglect the rose, in your garden
Show it your love, every day
Then it will bloom for you in all its beauty
And it will not, fade away

I guess by now, you know my story
Don't neglect, a love that's true
For it may prove to be, the sweetest flower
That will ever, bloom for you

It could be a mother, sister or brother
A husband, wife, or little child
Or it may be, your own true lover
That you've neglected, all the while

Chorus

Notes:

Emma Smith made her recording debut in 1972 with "Angel Mother," a song written after her mother passed way. The song became a local hit, and Emma became a popular performer in Hazard, Kentucky. In 1981, Emma moved to Portsmouth, Ohio. There she recorded a number of songs with Larry Sparks (including this song, Don't Neglect the Rose).

Emma Smith first recorded this song in 1984 on her album "Emma Smith With Friends - We Are One." Emma sings lead and Larry Sparks sings harmony. Larry Sparks recorded this song in 1987 on his album "Silver Reflections." Lynn Morris also recorded this song in 2003 on her album "Shape of a Tear."

The song features three-part harmony on the choruses.

Don't This Road Look Rough and Rocky

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1954)

Key of A, 144 PBM

Chords	Chords (Capo 2 nd Fret)
Verse A A A D A A A A A A A A E E E E A A A D A A A A E E E E A A A⁷ A⁷ Chorus D D D D A A A A A A A A E E E E A A A D A A A A E E E E A A A A	Verse G G G C G G G G G G G G D D D D G G G C G G G G D D D D G G G⁷ G⁷ Chorus C C C C G G G G G G G G D D D D G G G C G G G G D D D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I IV I
Darling, I have come to tell you

V
Though it almost breaks my heart

I IV I
But before the morning darling

V I
We'll be many miles apart

IV I
Don't this road look rough and rocky

V
Don't that sea look wide and deep

I IV I
Don't my baby look the sweetest

V I
When she's in my arms asleep

Don't you hear the night birds crying
Far across the deep blue sea
While of others you are thinking
Won't you sometimes think of me

Chorus

One more kiss before I leave you
One more kiss before we part
You have caused me lots of trouble
Darling you have broke my heart

Chorus

Notes:

Credited to Flatt and Scruggs, they likely learned the song from a 1936 recording by the Blue Sky Boys, "Cant You Hear the Night Bird Crying." Portions of the lyrics come from multiple sources, such as "Little Bunch of Roses," "Little Darling" and "Last Gold Dollar" from the early 1900s.

Originally recorded May 19, 1954 and released in November as a B-side (the A-side was "Till the End of the World Rolls Round." Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so their instruments were tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). To play this song with the original recording, you may wish to retune.

Originally sung through the entire song in three-part harmony.

Drink Up and Go Home

Freddie Hart (ver. Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys)

Key of C 189 BPM

<u>Chords</u>												<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>																
Verse												Verse																
	C	C		C	C		C	C		C	C			G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	F	F		F	F		G	G		G	G			C	C		C	C		D	D		D	D		D	D	
	F	F		F	F		C	C		C	C			C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	F	F		F	G		C	C		C	C			C	C		C	D		G	G		G	G		G	G	
Chorus												Chorus																
	F	F		F	F		C	C		C	C			C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	F	F		F	F		G	G		G	G			C	C		C	C		D	D		D	D		D	D	
	F	F		F	F		C	C		C	C			C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	F	F		F	G		C	C		C	C			C	C		C	D		G	G		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I

You sit there a-crying, right in your beer

IV

V

You say you got troubles, my friend listen here

IV

I

Don't tell me your troubles, got enough of my own

IV

V

I

Be thankful you're living, drink up and go home

IV

I

I'm fresh out of prison, six years in the pen

IV

V

Lost my wife and family, no one to call friend

Chorus

Back there sits a blind man, so blind he can't see

Yet he's not complaining, why should you or me?

Chorus

I'm fresh out of prison, six years in the pen

Lost my wife and family, no one to call friend

Chorus

Notes:

Freddie Hart is probably best known for his song "Easy Loving," which was first recorded in 1969, but was re-released in 1971. However, Freddie Hart was active in the country music scene all through the 50s and 60s, writing songs for Carl Smith, George Jones, Porter Wagoner and Patsy Cline. In the early 50s he moved out to California, becoming involved with Buck Owens in the "Bakersfield sound." Freddie continues to perform gospel. This song was first recorded by Carl Perkins in 1955.

Jimmy Martin recorded the song in 1961 in Nashville with Paul Craft on banjo, Roy Huskey Jr. on bass and Paul Williams on mandolin (and a very subtle snare drum by Willie Acerman. It was released on the 1962 album "Country Music Time." The song structure is unique as it could be considered to have two separate choruses with unique chord structures that are also slightly different from the chord structure of the verse.

This song is a classic example of the bluegrass $\frac{3}{4}$ time. You can hear in Carl Perkins' version, the emphasis is on beat 1. In bluegrass, the emphasis is on beats 2 and 3. Additionally, Carl's version has a "II-chord" at the line "Lost my wife and family..."

The last line of the chorus "Be thankful you're living..." is in three-part harmony.

Drinkin' Dark Whiskey

Chris Stapleton, Mike Henderson (ver. Steeldrivers, 2007)
Key of A, 95 BPM

Chords

Chorus

```
| A  A | A  A | A  A | A  A |
| A  A | A  A | E  E | E  E |
| D  D | D  D | A  A | A  A |
| A  A | E  E | A  A | A  A |
```

Verse

```
| A  A | A  A | A  A | A  A |
| D  D | D  D | A  A | A  A |
| E  E | E  E | A  A | A  A |
```

Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)

Verse

```
| G  G | G  G | G  G | G  G |
| G  G | G  G | D  D | D  D |
| C  C | C  C | G  G | G  G |
| G  G | D  D | G  G | G  G |
```

Chorus

```
| G  G | G  G | G  G | G  G |
| C  C | C  C | G  G | G  G |
| G  G | D  D | G  G | G  G |
```

Lyrics:

I

Drinking dark whiskey, telling white lies

V

One leads to another on a Saturday night

IV

I

Don't you cross your heart unless you hope to die

V

I

Drinking dark whiskey telling white lies

I

First shot burns but the second one goes down smooth

IV

I

Then that old black label gets a hold of you

V

I

It'll loosen your tongue but it don't ever tell the truth

Chorus

When the bottles talking be careful what he might say

It talks in the dark like it never would in the day

Then he gets in trouble just as soon as he gets his way

Chorus

Little white lie don't mean anyone no good

When it's making the rounds all over the neighborhood

Next thing ya know we're all misunderstood

Chorus

Notes:

Chris Stapleton comes from a family of coal miners. He moved to Nashville in 2001 to become a songwriter. He has multiple number-one songs with artists such as George Strait, Adele, Tim McGraw and has co-written with Peter Dinklage, Sheryl Crow and many others. He has been called the savior of new country both as a songwriter and singer. He co-wrote this song with the mandolin player from Steeldrivers, Mike Henderson and it was originally sung by country artist Gary Allan.

Recorded in 2007, it was released on the debut album from the self-titled Steeldrivers album. The Steeldrivers were a group of Nashville studio musicians that decided to form a band, with Tammy Rogers on fiddle and Richard Bailey on banjo joining Chris and Mike. In 2010, Chris Stapleton left the band to focus on raising his family. He was replaced by Gary Nichols. Mike Henderson left in 2011 and was replaced with Brent Truitt.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony, with the third line sung solo

Drivin' Nails in My Coffin

Jerry Irby (ver. The Osborne Brothers, 1968)

Key of A 126 BPM

Chords												Chords (Capo 2 nd Fret)													
	A	A		A	A		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		A	A		E	E		E	E			G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	A	A		A	A		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		E	E		A	A		A	A			G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I
My sweetheart has gone and I'm so lonely
V
She said that she and I were through
I
I started out drinkin' for past time
V I
Drivin' nails in my coffin over you

I'm just drivin' nails in my coffin
Everytime I drink a bottle of booze
I'm just drivin' nails in my coffin
Drivin' those nails over you

Ever since the day that we parted
I've been so sad and so blue
I'm always thinking of you love
And I just can't quit drinking that old booze

Chorus

Now you turned me down you don't want me
There's nothing now I can lose
I'm just drivin' those nails in my coffin
And worrying my darlin' over you

Chorus

Notes:

Jerry Irby was a country artist that started singing in the 30s as a duo with Ted Daffan. He was the vocalist with the Bar X Cowboys. In 1945 he recorded this song as a solo artist for Gulf. After leaving the Bar X Cowboys he formed his Texas Rangers and had some recordings with Mercury Records, Imperial Records, 4 Star and MGM. Some of his songs were covered by Bob Wills. This song was covered extensively by country artists, including Ernest Tubb in 1946, Hank Thompson in 1958 and many more.

In the 1960s, The Osborne Brothers caused minor controversy among bluegrass purists by incorporating electronic, pedal steel, piano and percussion instruments in their recordings and live acts. The Osborne Brothers would also record songs that could be considered more country than bluegrass. This is one of those songs, which can be found on their 1968 album "Yesterday, Today, And The Osborne Brothers. Eventually many of these songs would become bluegrass standards, including this song. Rhonda Vincent recorded this song in 2001 on her album "The Storm Still Rages.

This song is typically sung with no harmonies.

East Virginia Blues

Traditional (ver. Stanley Brothers, 1956)

Key of D, 119 BPM

Chords										Chords (Capo 2 nd Fret)									
	D	D		D	D		D	D			C	C		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		G	G		D	D			F	F		F	F		C	C	
	G	G		G	G		D	D			F	F		F	F		C	C	
	A	A		A	A		D	D			G	G		G	G		C	C	

Lyrics:

I
I was born in East Virginia
IV I
North Carolina I did go
IV I
There I courted a fair young lady
V I
But her age I did not know

Oh her hair was dark and curly
And her cheeks were rosy red
On her breast she wore white 44innin
Where I longed to lay my head

Molly dear, go ask your mother
You're my bride might ever be
If she says no, come back and tell me
And I'll run away with thee

No I'll not go ask my mother
Where she lies on her bed of rest
In her hand she holds a dagger
To kill the man that I love best

I'll go back to East Virginia
North Carolina ain't my home
I'll go back to East Virginia
Leave old North Carolina alone

The ocean's deep and I can't wade it
And I have no wings to fly
I'll just get some blue-eyed boatman
For to row me o'er the tide

Oh you know I'd like to see you
At my door you're welcome in
At my gate I'll always greet you
For you're the girl I tried to win

Notes:

The earliest reference to this song is from Cecil Sharp – an English historian who “collected” folk songs (listening to hundreds of folk singers, then arranging the songs for piano and choir). He also made trips and collected songs in Australia and the United States. Sharp collected this song “In Old Virginny” in 1917.

The Carter Family recorded this song in 1934. In 1941 they recorded “East Virginia Blues No. 2,” with the same melody but completely new lyrics.

In 1956 in a studio in Bristol, Virginia, Ralph and Carter Stanley, along with Ralph Mayo and Curley Lambert, was asked to sing some traditional songs in front of a single microphone. One of the songs recorded that evening was “East Virginia Blues” with Ralph fingerpicking a mandolin. It can found on the album “An Evening Long Ago.” The Stanley Brothers would record the song a number of times throughout the years, with significant variations (and orders) of verses. There is an album released by Ralph Stanley in 1966 with a young Larry Sparks singing lead called “Old Time Music” that has another version of East Virginia Blues – again with Ralph fingerpicking a mandolin. A more recent recording can be found on the Balsam Range album from 2010, “Trains I Missed.”

Originally sung as a duet. However, you are more likely to hear it as a trio.

Feathered *Angels

Tyler Childers (ver. Tyler Childers, 2017)

Key of G, 86 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
G G G G D D D D	D D D D A A A A
C C C C C C C C (x2)	G G G G G G G G (x2)
Chorus	Chorus
D D D D C C C C (x4)	A A A A G G G G (x4)
E ^m E ^m D D C C C C (x2)	B ^m B ^m A A G G G G (x2)
D D D D C - - -	A A A A G - - -

Lyrics:

I V
Well my buckle makes impressions on the inside of her thigh
IV
There are little feathered *angels where we tussled through the night
If I'd known she was religious then I wouldn't have came stoned
To the house of such an angel too *messed up to get back home

Looking over West Virginia smoking Spirits on the roof
She asked ain't anybody told ya that them things are bad for you
I said, "Many folks have warned me there's been several people try
But up 'til now, there ain't been nothing that I couldn't leave behind"
V IV V IV
Hold me close my dear sing your whispering songs
V IV V IV
Softly in my ear And I will sing along
VIm V IV
Honey, tell me how your love runs true
VIm V IV
And how I can always count on you
V
To be there when the bullets fly
IV I
I'd run across the river just to hold you tonight

Well, my heart is sweating bullets from the circles, it has raced
Like a little feathered *angel calling out the clouds for rain
I'd go running through the thicket I'd go careless through the thorns
Just to hold her for a minute though it'd leave me wanting more

Chorus

Notes:

Tyler Childers grew up in Johnson County in Kentucky. His father worked in the coal industry and his mother is a nurse. Tyler is greatly influenced by the music in that area of Kentucky, and became friends with another singer/songwriter from that area – Sturgill Simpson. Childers music crosses genres between Americana, country music, bluegrass and old tyme. Tyler has been vocal about in his music about racism, civil unrest, and police brutality.

There are two words that some may find offensive in this song (including the title) – so they have been changed by me (Darcy Whiteside). This song was released on Tyler Childers' second studio album, titled Purgatory. The original version includes clawhammer banjo, mandolin and fiddle by Stuart Duncan and pedal steel guitar by Russ Pahl.

The song features three-part harmony on the first two and the last line of the chorus.

The Fields Have Turned Brown

Carter Stanley (ver. The Stanley Brothers, 1950)

Key of D, 65 BPM

Chords

D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D
A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D

Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)

C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
F	F	F	F	C	C	C	C
F	F	F	F	C	C	C	C
G	G	G	G	C	C	C	C

Lyrics:

I
 I left my old home to ramble this country
 IV I
 My mother and dad said son don't go wrong
 IV I
 Remember that God will always watch o'er you
 V I
 And we will be waiting for you here at home
 IV I
 Son don't go astray was what they both told me
 V I
 Remember that love for God can be found
 IV I
 But now they're both gone this letter just told me
 V I
 For years they've been dead, the fields have turned brown
 For many long years I've travelled in sorrow
 No thoughts of the day when I would return
 Now as I go home and find no one waiting
 The price I have paid to live and to learn

Chorus

Notes:

Recorded by the Stanley Brothers
 November 20, 1949 for Columbia Records.
 It was released as the "A-side" February
 13, 1950 (the "B-side" was The Old
 Home"). This was written by Carter
 Stanley and became a recent subset of
 country and bluegrass – the boy lamenting
 leaving the farm/small town to move to
 the city or move elsewhere in the country.

This song was covered by The Country
 Gentlemen in 1961 on the album "The
 Country Gentlemen Sing & Play Folk Songs
 & Bluegrass." John Duffey would also
 perform this song with The Seldom Scene
 and most notably record it on the album
 "Live At The Cellar Door" in 1971. It was
 also covered by Bluegrass Reunion (Red
 Allen, David Grisman, Herb Pedersen, Jim
 Buchanan, James Kerwin and Jerry Garcia"
 on the 1992 album, "Bluegrass Reunion."

Sung as a trio during the chorus.

Fox on the Run

Tony Hazzard (ver. Country Gentlemen 1971)

Key of B, 110 BPM

Chords	Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)
Verse B B F# F# C#mC#m E E C#mC#m F# F# E E B B B B B B F# F# C#mC#m E E C#mC#m F# F# E E B B B B E E E E E E E E B B B B Chorus E E B B F# F# B B E E B B C#7 C#7 F# F# F# F# E E B B F# F# B B E E B B F# F# B B B B	Verse G G D D Am Am C C Am Am D D C C G G G G G G D D Am Am C C Am Am D D C C G G G G C C C C C C C C G G G G Chorus C C G G D D G G C C G G A7 A7 D D D D C C G G D D G G C C G G D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I V iiM IV
 She walks through the corn leadin' down to the river
 iiM V IV I
 Her hair shone like gold in the hot mornin' sun
 V iiM IV
 She took all the love that a poor boy could give her
 iiM V IV I
 And left me to die like a fox on the run
 IV I
 Like a fox, like a fox, like a fox like a fox on the run

IV I V I
 Everybody knows the reason for the fall
 IV I II V
 When woman tempted men down in paradise's hall
 IV I V I
 This woman tempted me and took me for a ride
 IV I V I
 Like a lonely fox I need a place to hide

Chorus

We'll pour a glass of wine to fortify our soul
 We'll talk about the world and friends we used to know
 I see a string of girls who have put me on the floor
 The game is nearly over the hounds are at my door

Chorus

Notes:

Tony Hazzard, a fan of the band Manfred Mann, specifically wrote this song for the English rock band Manfred Mann. Named after the keyboard player, this band was very popular through the 1960s. In addition to "Fox on the Run," they also sang "Do Wah Diddy Diddy." They were one of the first English-based groups to break into the US during the "British Invasion."

Bill Emerson was working with Cliff Waldron and bringing songs to the bluegrass genre that were not bluegrass songs, such as "Proud Mary," "If I Were a Carpenter" and this song, "Fox on the Run." It was recorded on the album "Bluegrass Country" in 1970. But it became entrenched in bluegrass when Bill recorded the song with The Country Gentlemen in 1971 on the album Sound Off. This song was also recorded in 1976 by The Good Brothers here in Canada.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony. The last line of the chorus (like a fox) initially is sung by the lead and each successive "like a fox" adds an additional harmony.

Handsome Molly

Traditional (Stanley Brothers, 1962)
Key of A, 128 BPM

Chords

```
| A  A | A  A | A  A | E  E |
| E  E | E  E | E  E | A  A |
| A  A |
```

Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)

```
| G  G | G  G | G  G | D  D |
| D  D | D  D | D  D | G  G |
| G  G |
```

Lyrics:

I
Well, I wish I was in London,
IV
Or some other seaport town
Set my foot in a steamboat
I
And sail the ocean 'round.

Sailing around the ocean,
Sailing around the sea
I think of Handsome Molly
Wherever she may be

I saw her in church last Sunday
She passed me on by
I knew her mind was changing
By the roving of her eye

Her hair was black as raven
Her eyes were black as coal
Her teeth shone like lilies
Out in the morning cold

Now do you remember Molly
When you give me your right hand?
You said if you ever married
I'd be your man

Now you've broken your promise
To marry who you please
My heart is broken
'Til I get some ease

Repeat first and second verse

Notes:

A courting ballad that dates back to traditional Irish ballads that include "Farewell Ballymoney" family of songs including "Irish Girl", "Lovely Molly", "Loving Hannah", "Dark-Eyed Molly", and "Going to Mass Last Sunday." The pre-bluegrass recording of significance was a 1927 recording by fiddler G.B. Grayson and guitarist Henry Whitter. The album had "Train 45" as the A-side, and a version of "Handsome Molly" on the B-side.

The Stanley Brothers would regularly perform this song through the 1950s at live concerts. There is a recording from 1956 that was recorded in an impromptu session in a studio in front of a single mic with Ralph Mayo and Curley Lambert. This recording can be heard on the album "An Evening Long Ago." In January of 1961 they did a studio recording of the song (the only session of the Stanley brothers to feature electric bass). It was released on the album "Folk Song Festival."

Other significant recordings include two recordings by The Country Gentlemen – a 1961 recording on the album "Sing & Play Folk Songs & Bluegrass" and a 1963 live recording on the album "On the Road." Doc Watson recorded the song in an old-time style with Gaither Carlton in 1961 and released on the album "Old Time Music at Clarence Ashley's" (and can be found on the compilation album "The Essential Doc Watson"). Bob Dylan, Ian and Sylvia Tyson and even Mick Jagger have recorded versions.

Carter Stanley would sing this song as a solo. Country Gentlemen recorded the song with three-part harmony through the entire song. Verses can vary, and some recordings repeat "Sailing around the ocean..." as a chorus in between each verse, with only the verses in harmony.

Hard Hearted

Jim & Jesse McReynolds (ver. Jim & Jesse, 1958)

Key of Bb, 117 BPM

Chords

Chorus

```
| Eb Eb | Eb Eb | Bb Bb | Bb Bb |
| F F | F F | Bb Bb | Bb Bb |
| Eb Eb | Eb Eb | Bb Bb | Bb Bb |
| F F | F F | F F | Bb Bb |
| Bb Bb |
```

Verse

```
| F F | F F | Bb Bb | Bb Bb |
| F F | F F | Bb Bb | Bb Bb |
| F F | F F | Bb Bb | Bb Bb |
| C C | C C | F F | F F |
```

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Chorus

```
| C C | C C | G G | G G |
| F F | F F | G G | G G |
| C C | C C | G G | G G |
| D D | D D | D D | G G |
| G G |
```

Verse

```
| D D | D D | G G | G G |
| D D | D D | G G | G G |
| D D | D D | G G | G G |
| A A | A A | D D | D D |
```

Lyrics:

```
IV          I
Hard hearted heart breaker
V          I
Dream stealin, love faker
IV          I
Hard hearted heart breaker
V          I
How many hearts have you broken today
```

```
V          I
How many hearts have you broken today
V          I
How many tears have been shed over you
V          I
How many dreams have you caused to go wrong
II          V
All because your heart has proved untrue
```

Chorus

How many lies have you told other guys
Just like the one you told to me
Someday you'll learn that the tide will have to turn
Just keep on breaking hearts and you will see

Chorus

Notes:

Jim and Jesse McReynolds were signed to Capital Records in 1952. But by 1955, rock and roll had started its rise, and Jim and Jesse were dropped by Capital. They would continue to perform for radio and television. They were performing in Florida on the Suwannee River Jamboree, and decided to record a few songs to take to Nashville. No one was interested, until they ran into Don Pierce at Starday Records. Don and Starday Records were interested in bluegrass music when no one else was.

In October, 1958, Jim and Jesse recorded Pardon Me, Border Ride and this song, Hard Hearted. Don McHan joined them on bass and assist in harmony vocals, Vassar Clements was on fiddle and Bobby Thompson played banjo. Two years later the McReynolds would be sponsored by Martha White Flour and leave Starday for a recording contract with Columbia Records and membership with the Grand Ole Opry.

In 1996 a live recording of Old & In the Way was released from a concert from October 8, 1973 at the Boarding House in San Francisco. Jerry Garcia was on banjo, David Grisman on mandolin, Peter Rowan on guitar, Vassar Clements on fiddle and John Kahn on bass. This was one of the songs on the album. Tony Rice, Larry Rice, Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen recorded a country version of this song on the 2001 album "Runnin' Wild."

The song is typically sung as a trio on the choruses.

Hard Pressed

Tim O'Brien (ver. Hot Rize, 1986)

Key of B, 135 BPM

<u>Chords</u>												<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>													
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B			G	G		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	B	B		B	B		E	E		E	E			G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B			G	G		C	C		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I V I
 Hard pressed we can find a way

 Night is almost gone
 IV
 It'll be another day
 I V I
 If you're hard pressed we can find a way

Fears, trials, and troubles have we all
 The road is rough and rocky
 You'll stumble and fall
 Pray to him and he will hear your call
 If you're hard pressed we can find a way

Chorus

I'm proud to have a family of my own
 I know I'm lucky to have my health and home
 I don't have much but I won't be alone
 If we're hard pressed we can find a way

Chorus

So make me a pillow for my head
 I'll remember words that my daddy once said
 When he was trying to keep his family fed
 If we're hard pressed we can find a way

Chorus

If we're hard pressed we can find a way

Notes:

Written by Tim O'Brien

Recorded in 1986 by the band "Hot Rize" –
 this was from their third album,
 "Traditional Ties." 1978

The chorus is sung as a trio; however, the
 lines "Night is almost gone" is sung solo by
 the lead and "It'll be another day" is sung
 solo by the tenor.

Harvest Time

Carroll D Dunham, Bill Emerson and Lewis Cris Jr Moore (ver. Lost and Found, 1982)

Key of B 113 BPM

Chords

Verse

| B B | F# F# | E E | B B |
 | B B | B B | F# F# | B B |
 | B B |

Chorus

E E	E E	B B	B B
F# F#	F# F#	B B	B B
E E	E E	B B	B B
B B	F# F#	B B	B B

Chords (Capo 4th Fret)

Verse

| G G | D D | C C | G G |
 | G G | G G | D D | G G |
 | G G |

Chorus

C C	C C	G G	G G
D D	D D	G G	G G
C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I V IV I
 Cool and cloudy nights upon Boll Mountain, Alabama

V I
 I was stealing corn from Homer Lawson's field
 The rattle of the cornstalks and the bark of Homer's hound dog
 Made me hug the ground and lie dead still

Flashing through my mind was Big Homer's reputation
 A man who really didn't give a damn
 They say he shot ol' Mountain Joe for just one ear of corn
 And laughed the day they laid him in the ground

IV I
 And, I can hear the breaking of the sticks from someone's
 footsteps

V I
 But shaky legs just can't get up and run
 And as I lay there breathless, the next thing I expected
 Was a blast of hell from Homer Lawson's gun

The clouds rolled by and then I saw the shadow of a lady
 It was Homer's lovely daughter Julie Ann
 I smelled the perfume in her hair as she sat down beside me
 Whispered, "Papa's running moonshine again"

I thank God for cloudy nights and Alabama's whiskey stills
 And harvest time in Homer Lawson's field
 I thank God for cloudy nights and Alabama's whiskey stills
 And harvest time in Homer Lawson's field

Notes:

Not to be confused with the banjo player Bill Emerson – this song was co-written by Carroll Dunham, Bill Emerson and Lewis Cris Jr Moore. Wild Bill Emerson first recorded it in 1973.

Lost and Found recorded this song in 1982 on their album "Endless Highway." Lost and Found first formed in 1973 with Dempsey Young on mandolin, Roger Handy on mandolin, Gene Parker on banjo and Allen Mills on bass. Through the 70s and 80s they would have a huge impact on bluegrass players in Virginia, including Blue Highway, Illrd Tyme Out and Lonesome River Band. In fact, the Lonesome River Band recorded this song in 2000 on their album "Talkin' To Myself."

The song features three-part harmony on every second line throughout the entire song.

Have a Feast Here Tonight

Traditional (ver. Monroe Brothers, 1938)

Key of D, 175 BPM

Chords												Chords (Capo 2 nd Fret)											
	D	D		D	D		D	D		D	D			C	C		C	C		C	C		
	D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A			C	C		G	G		G	G		
	D	D		D	D		D	D		D	D			C	C		C	C		C	C		
	D	D		A	A		D	D		D	D			C	C		G	G		C	C		

Lyrics:

I
 There's a rabbit in the log and I ain't got my dog
 V
 How will I get him I know
 I
 I'll get me a briar and twist it in his hair
 V I
 That way I'll get him I know

I know (yes I know)
 I know (I surely know)
 That way I'll get him I know
 I'll get me a briar and I'll twist it in his hair
 That way I'll get him I know

I'll build me a fire and I'll cook that old hare
 Roll him in the flames and make him brown
 Have a feast here tonight while the moon is shining bright
 And find them a place to lie down

To lie down (to lie down)
 To lay down (to lie down)
 Find them a place to lie down
 Have a feast here tonight while the moon is shining bright
 And find them a place to lie down

I'm going down that track and my coat ripped up my back
 Soles on my shoes are nearly gone
 Just a little ways ahead there's a farmer's shed
 That's where I'll rest my weary bones

Weary bones (weary bones)
 Weary bones (you lazy bones)
 That's where I'll rest my weary bones
 A little way's ahead there's a farmer's shed
 That's where I'll rest my weary bones

Notes:

The Prairie Ramblers recorded this song in 1933. This "hot string band" and "hot fiddler band" played with a very aggressive style that had a big impact on Bill Monroe, so it's not surprising that Bill would record this song in 1938 with his brother Charlie. The Prairie Ramblers had B-movie actor Floyd "Salty" Holmes on harmonica, jug and guitar. This band also featured Patsy Montana (famous for her song "I Want To Be A Cowboy's Sweetheart.") This song does go back earlier than that – with one of the verses being identified as African-American origin in North Carolina Folklore Volume III, identified as "Rabbit in the Log" – which this song is also known by.

The Monroe Brothers recorded this song in 1938 as "Have a Feast Here Tonight" as the A-side (the B-side was "Goodbye, Maggie." It would become a bluegrass standard, recorded multiple times by Bill Monroe (including live recordings with Doc Watson). It would become a signature song for The Stanley Brothers. David Grisman would record a version with Doc Watson and Ricky Skaggs on the album "Home is Where the Heart Is." It can also be found on the 2003 album "Three Pickers" with Earl Scruggs, Ricky Skaggs and Doc Watson. More recently, Chris Thile and Michael Daves recorded their version on the album "Sleep With One Eye Open (as Rabbit In the Log)".

This song is typically sung as a duet throughout (with the tenor singing the words in bracket).

He Rode All the Way to Texas

John Starling (ver. Seldom Scene – 1975)

Key of Eb 70 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)</u>
Chords Eb Eb Eb Eb Ab Ab Eb Eb Bb Bb Bb Bb Eb Eb Eb Eb	Chords C C C C F F C C G G G G C C C C
Verse Eb Eb Eb Eb Eb Eb Ab Ab Bb Bb Bb Bb Eb Eb Eb Eb	Verse C C C C C C F F G G G G C C C C

Lyrics:

I IV I V

He rode all the way to Texas, on an old freight train

I

He's lettin' you know he's the movin' kind

I IV V

A light shines from my window, I just can't sleep no more

I

Oh Lord, it hurts so much to be alone

But the rail men never do admit that it's them that might be wrong

At least that's what he told me in his song

I

He rode all the way to Texas

On an old freight train, he didn't miss the girl he left behind

I

He rode all the way to Texas, didn't shed a tear

He's lettin' you know he's the movin' kind

The freedom that he sings about I guess I'll never know

I just can't shake the guilt or kill the pain

But it helps to ride when the lights turns low, I'll get on board the radio

And take a ride to Texas on his train

Chorus

We're 53inning' you know we're the movin' kind

Notes:

Written by John Starling. John Starling served in the Vietnam War as a surgeon. After Vietnam he completed his residency in Washington D.C. at the Walter Reed Army Medical Centre. While in D.C. in 1971, he met fellow musicians Ben Eldridge (banjo) and Mike Auldridge (dobro) – they used to jam in Ben's basement. The trio were soon joined by John Duffey and Tom Gray. Mike was a graphic artist, Tom was a cartographer with National Geographic, Ben was a mathematician and Duffey repaired musical instruments. They played one night a week in a local club and occasionally played concerts and festivals on weekend. Their friend Charlie Waller (lead singer of Country Gentlemen) joked with Duffey saying "What are you going to call yourselves – the seldom seen." In 1978, after 6 albums and significant interest, John Starling left the band to focus on his medical career as an otolaryngologist.

This song was recorded on the Seldom Scene album "Live at the Cellar Door" in 1975. The Cellar Door was a small club (seated 163 people) in Washington D.C. Other live albums recorded there include Mile Davis (The Cellar Door Session), Danny Gatton (The Redneck Jazz Explosion) and Neil Young (also titled "Live at the Cellar Door"). John Starling also released this album on his 1977 album "Long Time Gone."

The song has been recorded by Tony Rice – originally released on an album by Rickie Simpkins called "Dancing on the Fingerboard" – it was rereleased on a Tony Rice album titled "Nightflyer – The Singer Songwriter Collection" in 2008. Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt and Dolly Parton also released a version on their 1994 album "Trio II" (John Starling was one of Emmylou's favourite singers).

The lines "On an old freight train" and "didn't shed a tear" is sung as a trio, with the tenor and baritone humming through the remainder of the lines in the chorus.

He Took Your Place

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1953)
Key of G 88 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
G G G G C C C C	D D D D G G G G
G G G G D D D D	D D D D A A A A
G G G G C C C C	D D D D G G G G
G G D D G G G G	D D A A D D D D
Chorus	Chorus
C C C C G G G G	G G G G D D D D
G G G G D D D D	D D D D A A A A
G G G G C C C C	D D D D G G G G
G G D D G G G G	D D A A D D D D

Lyrics:

I IV
Upon the rugged cross of Calvary
I V
Was there my blessed Savior cried
I IV
Forgive them for they know not what they do
I V I
Oh, sinner friend, for thee he died
IV I
His hands are gently knocking on your door
V
Outside he's pleading to come in
I IV
His heart is breaking as he waits for you
I V I
To wash you free from every sin

Someday he's coming back to claim his own
We'll fly to Heaven's golden shore
A crown of life he gives on that glad day
With him we'll live forever more

Chorus

Those cruel thorns they pierced my Savior's head
The blood was flowing down his face
In shame, forsaken there he hung and died
Oh, sinner friend, he took your place

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs. First recorded on May 9, 1951 and released August 3, 1953 as the B-side – the A-side was I'm Workin on a Road. Everett Lilly of the Lilly Brothers played mandolin and sang tenor harmony to Lester's lead vocals. Chubby Wise played fiddle and Jody Rainwater played upright bass.

Seldom Scene recorded their version on the 1978 album Baptizing. The Grascals released a version on their 2017 album Before Breakfast. The Whites recorded a more country version in 1988 on the album Doing It By the Book.

The original version was recorded as a duet. Modern versions are typically sung in three-part harmony.

Hello City Limits

Johnny Elgin and Benny Martin (ver. Red Allen and the Kentuckians 1956)

Key of B 141 BPM

Chords										Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)									
	B	B		B	B		B	B			G	G		G	G		G	G	
	E	E		E	E		E	E			C	C		C	C		G	G	
	B	B		F#	F#		F#	F#			G	G		D	D		D	D	
	F#	F#		E	E		E	E			D	D		C	C		C	C	
	B	B		B	B						G	G		G	G				

Lyrics:

I
Hello, city limits I see your sign
IV I
Left all my worries way behind
V
Left all my troubles and heartaches there too
IV V I
Hello, city limits I'm starting out brand new

I need a change of scenery, need it real bad
To help me forget all the troubles I've had
I've got a feeling I'll find a love that's true
Hello city limits I'm starting out brand new

Chorus

I haven't told a soul just where I'll be
I don't want the blues to catch up with me
I may decide to change my name too
Well hello city limits, I'm starting out brand new

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Johnny Elgin was a host and frequent performer on the Peach State Jamboree radio show in Georgia. In 1957 he had a hit single with "Sittin' Alone with the Blues," but was working as a manager and ad salesman for radio. However, his song "Hello City Limits" became a country hit with Benny Martin, which allowed Elgin to pursue music full-time as a writer and producer of music. Elgin eventually joined Spar Records, producing the Nashville Country Jamboree. These albums featured the handiwork of Elgin and Nashville session musicians, such as Floyd Cramer, Hargus "Pig" Robbins, Norbert Putnam, Wayne Moss, Charlie McCoy, David Briggs, Norbert Putnam, and Pete Drake

Red Allen and the Kentuckians released this song as the A-side in 1965 (with the B-side being "Flowers By My Graveside"). It was also released on the album "The Solid Bluegrass Sound of The Kentuckians." Bill Emerson was on banjo, Bill Yates on Bass, Red Allen on guitar and vocals, Wayne Yates on mandolin and Chubby Wise on fiddle. Hugh Moore released a version in 1986 on the album "Hello City Limits." The Blue Canyon Boys also released a version in 2008, also on an album titled "Hello City Limits."

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

Hickory Wind

Gram Parsons and Bob Buchanan (ver. Seldom Scene, 1982)

Key of C, 120 BPM

Chords

	G		G		F		F		C		C		C		C	
	G		G		F		F		G		G		G		G	
	F		F		G		G		C		C		C		C	
	F		F		G		G		C		F		C		C	

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

	D		D		C		C		G		G		G		G	
	D		D		C		C		D		D		D		D	
	C		C		D		D		G		G		G		G	
	C		C		D		D		G		C		G		G	

Lyrics:

	V		IV		I
In		South		Carolina	there are many tall pines
	V		IV		V
I		remember		the oak tree	that we used to climb
	IV			I	vim
But		whenever		I'm lonely	I always pretend
	IV	V		I	IV I
That		I'm		I' the feel	of the hickory wind

I started out younger had most everything
 All the riches and pleasures what else could life bring?
 But it makes me feel better each time it begins
 Callin' me home to the hickory wind

It's a hard thing to find out that trouble is real
 In a faraway city with a faraway feel
 But it makes me feel better each time it begins
 Callin' me home to the hickory wind

Yeah it makes me feel better each time it begins
 Callin' me home to the hickory wind

Notes:

Bob Buchanan and Gram Parsons wrote this song on a train ride from Florida to Los Angeles in 1968. Gram had just joined the Byrds and he, along with Chris Hillman, took the band in a more country direction and were slated to perform Merle Haggard's "Life in Prison" on the Grande Ole Opry on March 15. Instead, they sang this song, angering the country music establishment and cementing the song as another moment in the Gram Parsons legend.

The song was first recorded on the legendary album *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* by The Byrds – considered the first major country rock album. Gram Parsons re-recorded the song in 1974 for the album *Grievous Angel*. Seldom Scene regularly performed this song in concert and recorded it live on the album "Bluegrass – The World's Greatest Show" in 1982 (an album of performances by Seldom Scene, JD Crowe and the New South and The Country Gentlemen in Washington). JD Crowe and the New South would record the song in 1978 on the album "You Can Share My Blanket." A more recent recording is on the album "Endless Ocean" in 2013 by The Tuttles and AJ Lee. There are many other recordings of this song.

The song is sung as a trio on the last two lines of every verse.

Hit Parade of Love

Jimmy Martin and Wade Birchfield (ver. Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys, 1956)

Key of B, 137 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
B B B B B B E E E E	G G G G G G C C C C
F# F# F# F# F# F# B B B B	D D D D D D G G G G
B B B B B B E E E E	G G G G G G C C C C
F# F# F# F# F# F# B B B B	D D D D D D G G G G
Chorus	Chorus
F# F# F# F# B B B B	D D D D G G G G
C# C# C# C# C# C# F# F# F# F#	A A A A A A D D D D
B B B B B B E E E E	G G G G G G C C C C
F# F# F# F# F# F# B B B B	D D D D D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I IV
From what I've been a hearing dear you really got it made
V I
You've got a lot of fellers on your lovers hit parade
IV
And if I could be your number one, well I don't know what I'll do
V I
I wanna be plum up to the top I'm so in love with you
V I
On your hit parade of love I know I'll never stop
IV V
I've got a long long way to climb before I reach the top
I IV
But if I do get there soon I'll really have it made
V I
Then I'll know I'm number one on your lover's hit parade
Now it's your heart I'm after dear 'cause it's so nice and kind
Another one to take your place would be so hard to find
So put your arms around me and be my turtle dove
Then I'll feel like I'm number one on your hit parade of love

Chorus

Now if we work together like all good lovers should
We can make a go of it everything will turn out good
We can have so much fun we'll really have it made
Then I'll know I'm number one on your lover's hit parade

Chorus

Notes:

While Jimmy Martin shares credit, Detroit native likely penned the majority of this song. Wade Birchfield had come to Detroit from the mountains of North Carolina (him and his twin Brother Wiley were active in music since the late 40s). There he met Jimmy Martin. In the summer of 1954, Jimmy had teamed up with Sonny and Bobby Osbrone and was playing the Detroit area, recording for RCA Victor. The Osbornes and Jimmy Martin broke up in August 1955.

This song was first recorded in May of 1956 by Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys. This was one of the first four songs recorded when Jimmy first signed with Decca (the other three were "Before the Sun Goes Down," "Skip, Hop and Wobble" and "You'll Be A Lost Ball." This was before Paul Williams and J.D. Crowe joined the band (Porky Hutchins played banjo and Tommy Vaden played fiddle on these four songs). Other recordings include a live version by Seldom Scene off their "Live at the Cellar Door" album, recorded in 1975. Rhonda Vincent also release a version on her 2008 album "Good Thing Going."

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

Hold Whatcha Got

Jimmy Martin (ver. Jimmy Martin, 1958)

Key of F 97 BPM

Chords												Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)													
	F	F		F	F		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$			C	C		C	C		F	F		F	F	
	F	F		F	F		C	C		C	C			C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	F	F		F	F		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$			C	C		C	C		F	F		F	F	
	F	F		C	C		F	F		F	F			C	C		G	G		C	C		C	C	

Lyrics:

I
 Hold whatcha got, I'm a-coming home baby
 IV
 Hold whatcha got, and I don't mean maybe
 I V
 Been a-thinking about you and I'm on my way
 I
 Don't sell the house, and don't wreck the car
 IV
 Stay there, honey, right where you are
 I V I
 Hold whatcha got, I'm a coming home to stay

Well... in my mind I can see
 That's a pretty good sign that I need you
 And that's why I can't wait to get back home
 So squeeze yourself real good and tight
 I'll be there before daylight
 If you hold whatcha got, I'm a coming home to stay

Chorus

Well... when I get back, honey, I ain't leaving
 I been too lonely a little too much grieving
 When I get back this time I'm going to stay
 Well we won't fuss and we won't fight
 This time things are gonna be all right
 If you hold whatcha got, I'm a-coming home to stay

Chorus

Notes:

A classic, hard driving bluegrass song written by Jimmy Martin. This song was originally recorded in 1958 in the key of F by Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys. It was released in 1959 as a B-side (the A-side was She's Left Me Again). The banjo break is an interesting single-string lick that Jimmy Martin pushed JD Crowe to play, likening it to a Tommy Collins guitar lick.. Initially JD Crowe did not like playing it, comparing it unfavourably to picking a tenor banjo. Soon, many banjo players were asking him after a performance to show them the lick.

This song can also be found on the album "Good N' Country" by Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys (released in 1960). Tony Rice recorded a version on the 1979 album "Manzanita." And Jimmy Martin rerecorded it for the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band collaborative album "Will the Circle Be Unbroken Volume 3."

The chorus is sung as a duo (originally sung by mandolin player Paul Williams).

How Long Have I Been Waiting For You

Jonathan Edwards (ver. Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, 1979)

Key of B 115 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>									
Chorus										Verse									
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		
E	E	F#	F#	B	B	B	B			C	C	D	D	G	G	G	G		
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		
E	E	F#	F#	B	B	B	B			C	C	D	D	G	G	G	G		
Verse										Chorus									
B	B	F#	F#	E	E	B	B			G	G	D	D	C	C	G	G		
B	B	F#	F#	E	E	B	B			G	G	D	D	C	C	G	G		
B	B	F#	F#	E	E	B	B			G	G	D	D	C	C	G	G		
B	B	F#	F#	E	E	B	B			G	G	D	D	C	C	G	G		

Lyrics:

I
 How long have I been waiting for you
 IV V I
 How long have yo -u been on your way

 How long has our love been decided
 IV V I
 Only forever don't you ever go away

 I V IV I
 Waiting is a game that I was getting good at
 V IV I
 Sitting and watching was becoming my style
 V IV I
 Today I have found I can love again and will
 V IV I
 You'll be staying in my heart for a long, long while

Chorus

Waiting is a game that I was getting good at
 Sitting and watching was becoming my style
 Today I have found I can love again and will
 You'll be staying in my heart for a long, long while

Chorus

Notes:

Jonathan Edwards grew up playing music in the Virginia area. In the late 60s and early 70s he played country blues around the New England area, opening for acts such as The Allman Brothers and B.B. King. It was that time he wrote and recorded his most famous song, "Sunshine." In 1983 he joined The Seldom Scene and produced their album "Blue Ridge." Three of his songs are featured on this album, "Sunshine," "Little Hands," and this song, "How Long Have I Been Waiting For You."

Prior to The Seldom Scene recording, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver recorded this song on the album "Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver," released in 1979. Until this time, Doyle Lawson had been a side musician for a number of bands, including Jimmy Martin, J. D. Crowe and the Kentucky Mountain Boys and The Country Gentlemen. Originally called "Doyle Lawson and Foxfire," Doyle brought together Terry Baucom on banjo, Jimmy Haley on guitar and Lou Reid on bass. They would become known for their focus on vocals, particularly three-part harmonies.

The chorus is sung as a trio.

How Mountain Girls Can Love

Ruby Rakes (ver. Stanley Brothers, 1958)

Key of A, 158 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Chorus	Chorus
D D D D A A A A	C C C C G G G G
E E E E A A A A	D D D D G G G G
Verse	Verse
A A A A A A A A	G G G G G G G G
E E E E A A A A	D D D D G G G G

Lyrics:

IV I
Get down boys, go back home
V I
Back to the girl you love
IV I
Treat her right, never wrong
V I
How mountain gals can love

I
Riding the night in the high cold winds
V I
On the trail of the old lonesome pine

Thinking of you, feeling so blue
V I
Wondering why I left you behind

Chorus

Remember the night we strolled down the lane
Our hearts were gay and happy then
You whispered to me when I held you close
We hoped that night would never end

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

The "writer," Ruby Rakes, is the half-sister to Carter and Ralph Stanley. She was assigned rights to numerous Stanley Brothers songs for personal financial reasons in the late fifties/early sixties.

Recorded September 30, 1958, it was released on the album "Stanley Brothers and the Clinch Mountain Boys." Tony Rice sings a version on the album "Tony Rice Plays and Sings Bluegrass." Ricky Skaggs has a version from the album "Ancient Tones"

This song is deceptively fast. The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

I Heard the Bluebird Sing

Hod Pharis (ver. The Browns 1957)

Key of E, 109 BPM

Chords

Verse

	E	E		E	E		A	A		A	A	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		B	B	
	E	E		E	E		A	A		A	A	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		E	E	

Chorus

	A	A		A	A		A	A		E	E	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		B	B	
	B	B		E	E		E	E				
	A	A		A	A		A	A		E	E	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		B	B	
	B	B		B	B		E	E		E	E	

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

Verse

	C	C		C	C		F	F		F	F	
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	C	C		C	C		F	F		F	F	
	C	C		C	C		G	G		C	C	

Chorus

	F	F		F	F		F	F		C	C	
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	G	G		C	C		C	C				
	F	F		F	F		F	F		C	C	
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	

Lyrics:

I IV
I met a girl out in the hills, who gave my lonely heart a thrill
I V
Her beauty seemed just like a breath of spring
I IV
And when I looked into her eyes, I thought of bluer summer skies
I V I
And when I held her hand in mine I heard the bluebirds sing
IV
They sang of wondering (Wondering if you love her)
I
Will she marry? (Marry if you ask her)
V
Will her heart beat? (Heart beat true for him or for)
I
Them and ever more
And when she's lonely (Lonely is he near her?)
When there's sadness (Sadness will he cheer her?)
Will they always? (Always be together)
Until in death they part

I courted her for months on end until she promised we would wed
We planned on being married in the spring
All through the long cold winter months it seemed that spring would never come
And every gloomy winter's day I heard the bluebirds sing

They sang of waiting (Waiting for the flowers)
And of counting (Counting every hour)
'Til the bluebirds (Bluebirds chirped its welcome)
To the world once more
And while we're waiting (Waiting for the sunshine)
We keep hating (Hating every stormcloud)
That is gathered (Gathered o'er the mountains)
To keep us far apart

And when at last spring touched the earth we were married in the village church
Our wedding seemed just like a dream come true
So many years have come and gone our love is still as true and strong
As when I found her long ago until the bluebirds sing

They sang of loving (Loving every hour)
That I'm married (Married to my flower)
And we're happy (Happy ever after)
Since the day we've met
And though we're older (Older love is sweeter)
We grow fonder (Fonder of each other)
We'll be sweethearts (Sweethearts close together)
Until the end of time

Notes:

I Heard the Bluebirds Sing was written by Hod Pharis, a country singer from Willow Valley Alberta. Hod had a daily show at CFCN in Calgary as well as a featured vocalist on the "Old Timers" program on Friday nights. He recorded this song as a duet with Anne Little in 1952. That same year, the song was recorded by "Lone Pine" (stage name of Harold Breau) with his wife Betty Cody as Lone Pine and His Mountaineers. Their version became a popular song through Maine and the Maritimes. Harold and Betty are the parents of guitar player Lenny Breau.

It wasn't until the song was recorded by the three siblings Jim Ed, Bonnie and Maxine Brown in 1957 that the song became a mainstream country song throughout the U.S. In the 1970s, the song would once again enter the country charts with versions by Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge in 1973 and Marty Robbins in 1974.

The song first entered into the bluegrass genre by New York bluegrass band The Greenbriar Boys, released in 1966 on the album Better Late Than Never. That featured Frank Wakefield on mandolin, John Herald on guitar, Bob Yellin on banjo and Jim Buchanan on fiddle. Jim and Jesse McReynolds also recorded a version of the song in 1972 on their album The Jim & Jesse Show.

This song has the potential of many variations for harmony. Hod Pharis sang the verses solo, then added two harmony vocals for the "echo" on the chorus. The other versions are typically sung as a duet throughout the song.

I Hope You've Learned

Bill Carrigan and Eugene Butler (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1954)

Key of G 98 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>							
Verse								Verse							
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A	A	A
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G	A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D
Chorus								Chorus							
C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G	A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
D	D	D	D	G	G	G	G	A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D

Lyrics:

I
I've been away for just a year
V
Have you forgotten me my dear
I
The judge said I must pay the cost
V I
I never knew how much I lost
IV I
Until they send me far away
V
Where each minute seems a day
I
But maybe someday I'll be free
V I
Will you be waiting there for me

I'm in this cell because of you
The crime I did you drove me too
My jealous heart just could not stand
To see you with another man

Chorus

I hope someday that you will learn
And broken hearted you return
But listen darlin' please don't wait
For maybe then will be too late

Chorus

Notes:

Eugene Butler was a composer, conductor, educator and church musician. He had a masters degree in Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary in New York. This was one of the few secular compositions he wrote. Bill Carrigan was a singer and radio DJ.

Bill Monroe recorded this song in 1952 with Rudy Lyle on banjo, Charlie Cline on fiddle, and Ernie Newton on bass with the powerful vocals of Jimmy Martin singing lead with Bill Monroe singing harmony. The song wouldn't be released until 1954, with the song Wishing Waltz as the B-side. Del McCoury & The Dixie Pals released this song in 1976 on their album Collector's Special. Tony Rice recorded his version on the seminal album Manzanita with The Tony Rice Unit. Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder released their version on the album Bluegrass Rules! In 1997.

The song is sung as a duet through its entirety.

I Know You're Married But I Love You Still

Don Reno and Mack Magaha (ver. Reno and Smiley, 1956)

Key of D 79 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
D D D D D D D D D D	C C C C C C C C C C
D D D D E E A A A A	C C C C D D G G G G
D D D D D D D D D D	C C C C C C C C C C
D D D D A A D D D D	C C C C G G C C C C

Lyrics:

I
The day I met you my heart spoke to me
II V
It said to love you through eternity
I
Now knowing that you were another's bride
V I
I vowed I'll always be close by your side

You know I love you and I always will
I know you're married but I love you still

You broke a heart dear that would die for you
I'd give the world dear to belong to you
The game is over now I know I've lost
My broken heart will have to pay the cost

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Mack Magaha played fiddle in Porter Wagoner's band, the Wagonmasters, as well as being a member of the Tennessee Cutups with Don Reno and Red Smiley. Together with Don Reno, they wrote this song. In 1943, Don Reno was offered a position as banjo player with Bill Monroe, but he chose to enlist in the U. S. Army. When he returned to the U.S. – he started to develop his own style of banjo playing to stand out from sounding like Earl Scruggs. The Reno style incorporates single-string picking and unique chord patterns. Reno would typically play in any key without a capo. He was also an adept guitar player.

This song was first recorded by Reno and Smiley and the Tennessee Cutups in August of 1956. It was released April, 1957 as the A-side (the B-side was "Emotions"). Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton would release the song in 1970 on their album "Once More." Red Sovine would also release it in 1970. This song would become a popular song in both bluegrass and country music.

The entire song is sung as a duet.

I Wonder How the Old Folks Are at Home

Harry Lincoln and F.W. Vandersloot (ver. Mac Wiseman and the Osborne Brothers)

Key of B, 107 bpm

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
B B E E B B B B	G G C C G G G G
B B B B E E E E	G G G G C C C C
E E E E B B B B	C C C C G G G G
C# ⁷ C# ⁷ C# ⁷ C# ⁷ F#F# F#F#	A ⁷ A ⁷ A ⁷ A ⁷ D D D D
Chorus	Chorus
B B E E B B B B	G G C C G G G G
B B B B E E E E	G G G G C C C C
E E E E B B B B	C C C C G G G G
C# ⁷ C# ⁷ F#F# B B B B	A ⁷ A ⁷ D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I IV I
Well I wonder how the old folks are at home
IV
I wonder if they miss me while I roam
I
I wonder if they pray for the boy who went away
II V
And left his dear old parents all alone

You could hear the cattle lowin' in the lane
See the fields of blue grass green
You could almost hear them cry as they kiss their boy goodbye
Well I wonder how the old folks are at home

Just a village and a homestead on the farm
And a mother's love to keep you from all harm
A mother's love so true a sweetheart that loves you
Just a village and a homestead on the farm

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Sometimes attributed to A.P. Carter, the lyrics were written by Herbert Lambert and music by Harry Lincoln – which was a pseudonym of F.W. Vandersloot of the Vandersloot Music Publishing Company – an American publishing company of marches, waltzes, rags, religious and “Tin Pan Alley” music. It was first recorded by Paul Reimers in 1917.

The Carter Family recorded the song on November 22, 1929 under the name “The Homestead on the Farm” (with a slightly different melody and chord progression). The Renfro Valley Boys recorded the song in 1932 (Renfro Valley is a community in Kentucky, and was home to the Renfro Valley Barn Dance – similar to the Grande Ole Opry – through the late 1930s, 40s and 50s).

Mac Wiseman originally recorded the song in 1952 as the B-side (the A-side was “You’re the Girl of My Dreams”). The Lilly Brothers recorded a version on their 1964 album “Bluegrass Breakdown” (with some additional lyrics).

When Mac Wiseman originally recorded the song, it had no harmony. Sometimes the chorus is sung as a duet. The Carter Family recorded it with portions of the song as a duet and trio.

I Wonder Where You Are Tonight

Johnny Bond (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1962)

Key of E, 108 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse E E E E A A A A B B B B E E E E E E E E A A A A B B B B E E E E Chorus A A A A E E E E E E E E B B B B E E E E A A A A B B B B E E E E	Verse C C C C F F F F G G G G C C C C C C C C F F F F G G G G C C C C Chorus F F F F C C C C C C C C G G G G C C C C F F F F G G G G C C C C

Lyrics:

I IV
Now tonight I'm sad, my heart is weary
V I
I'm wondering if I'm wrong or right
IV
To dream about you though you left me
V I
I wonder where you are tonight
IV I
The rain is cold and slowly falling
V
Upon my window pane tonight
I IV
And though your love was even colder
V I
I wonder where you are tonight

Your heart was cold, you never loved me
Though you often said you cared
But now you've gone to find another
Someone who knows the love I shared

Chorus

Then came the dawn the day you left me
I tried to smile with all my might
But you could see the pain within me
That lingers in my heart tonight

Chorus

Notes:

Johnny Bond was a session musician and member of the Jimmy Wakely Trio. In addition to recording, was a significant support musician in dozens of Western movies. His song "I Wonder Where You Are Tonight" was first recorded by the Jimmy Wakely Trio and released February, 1941. In the 50s and 60s it was covered by multiple country artists, including Porter Wagoner and Hank Snow.

In 1962, Flatt and Scruggs played this song for their live album "At Carnegie Hall!" Jim and Jesse & the Virginia Boys recorded a version for their album "Bluegrass Classics," released in 1963 (it's also on their 1976 album "Live in Japan" and they recorded a version with Bill Monroe on the 1973 album "Bean Blossom." Since then, it has become a bluegrass standard, recorded by Bill Monroe ("Blue Grass Time" - 1967), Red Allen & the Kentuckians (self-titled album - 1966) and Bluegrass Cardinals (Livin' In the Good Old Days - 1978), just to name a few.

Typically you will hear the chorus with three-part harmony.

I'd Rather Be Alone

Jim West, Tom James and Tony Lee (ver. Flatt and Scruggs), 1954

Key of Gb, 94 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords</u>
Chorus	Chorus
Gb Gb Gb Gb Gb Gb Db Db	Gb Gb Gb Gb Gb Gb Db Db
Db Db Db Db Db Db Db Db	Db Db Db Db Db Db Db Db
Gb Gb Gb Gb	Gb Gb Gb Gb
Verse	Verse
Gb Gb Gb Gb B B B B	Gb Gb Gb Gb B B B B
Db Db Db Db Gb Gb Gb Gb	Db Db Db Db Gb Gb Gb Gb
Gb Gb Gb Gb B B B B	Gb Gb Gb Gb B B B B
Db Db Db Db Gb Gb Gb Gb	Db Db Db Db Gb Gb Gb Gb

Lyrics:

I V
I'd rather be alone and have you dream of me only
I
Than to make you say you're sorry that we are apart
V
I'd rather be alone and have you dream of me only
I
Than to be in your arms but never in your heart
IV
I just received your letter and you asked me to come home
V I
You say you're sorry that you went away
IV
This is an old old story I've heard it all before
V I
So darlin' this is all that I can say

Chorus

I tried so hard my darlin' to make you love me then
But you would always leave me here alone
Although I could forgive you but things would be the same
And love could never change your heart of stone

Chorus

Notes:

Recorded August 29 in 1953. Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs were joined by Curly Seckler on mandolin and Benny Martin on mandolin. Bob Moore played upright bass on this recording – one of the most recorded instrumentalists ever. Lou Innis also joined Flatt and Scruggs on this recording, providing a second rhythm guitar. Recorded in the key of F#. However, Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments up a semi-tone, so they would have been playing this song out of F-position.

The Bluegrass Album Band recorded this song on the 1983 album Volume Three, California Connection. Larry Sparks also recorded this song on the 1980 album John Deere Tractor.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

I'll Never Shed Another Tear

Lester Flatt (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1949)

Key of Ab, 124 BPM

Chords

A♭	A♭	A♭	A♭	D♭	D♭	A♭	A♭
A♭	A♭	A♭	A♭	E♭	E♭	E♭	E♭
A♭	A♭	A♭	A♭	D♭	D♭	A♭	A♭
A♭	A♭	E♭	E♭	A♭	A♭	A♭	A♭

Chords (Capo 1st Fret)

	G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I used to sit alone at night and worry little darling
For I thought you meant the world to me
But now things have changed and those days are gone forever
So I'll never shed another tear

I'll never shed another tear now I don't care what happens
You have proved your love untrue to me
There's nothing you can do that will ever change my feelings
So I'll never shed another tear

With a broken heart I'll never forget the vows we made together
The many times you told me not to fear
But now you've forgotten and you've left me here forever
So I'll never shed another tear

Chorus

Now you should have told me dear that you was only fooling
Then I'd never learn to love you so
Then I wouldn't have all these heartaches my darling
Dreading the day I see you go

Chorus

Notes:

This song was recorded by Flatt and Scruggs December 11, 1949. It can be found on the album "Lester Flatt & Earl Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys" (1959), or "The Complete Mercury Sessions." Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semitone higher than normal, so their instruments were tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). To play this song with the original recording, you may wish to retune. Another notable recording is from The Bluegrass Album Volume II (JD Crowe, Tony Rice, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks and Todd Phillips).

Originally recorded as a duet with tenor harmony throughout the chorus. In “jam” situations it may be sung as a trio.

I'll Take the Blame

Murray Nash (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1957)

Key of Bb 98 BPM

Chords

Verse

Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chorus

Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	G G	G G
C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	G G	G G	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Chorus

C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G
C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I
 I've slipped around, dear, two-timing you
 IV I
 Having fun dear, like some guys do
 But now I'm sorry and now I'm true
 (V) I
 Forgive me, darling, its up to you
 IV I
 But I can't blame you if you two-time, too
 Because I'm guilty for the things I do
 I've danced around, love, played every game
 And if you leave me I'll take the blame

Chorus

I've got no money, I'm just a pauper guy
 Trying to live on love, dear without your love, I'll die
 So please don't leave me, whatever you do
 Just squeeze me, darling, while I'm loving you

Chorus

Chorus

Alternate verse:

*You know it's hard love, for a man to do right
 In a world of angels wearing blue jeans tight
 It's just like heaven, it's tempting too
 Be careful darling, don't let the men tempt you*

Notes:

Murray Nash was a distributor for RCA during the 1940s, helping to sign Pee Wee King, Charlie Monroe and Cliff Calisle to the label. He was also head of Mercury Records from 1948 to 1954, then went on to work for Acuff-Rose. While there he launched the Acuff-Rose record label, Hickory Records. To the best of my knowledge, this was the only song that he wrote. And this song is sometimes attributed to being written by Lester Flatt (or, in some cases, "Certain and Stacey" – pseudonyms of Flatt and Scruggs, which were their wives' maiden names)

Flatt and Scruggs recorded this song twice in 1957. Once in January, and once in July (with two different second verses). However, the song would remain unreleased until 1978, where it was released on the album "Blue Ridge Cabin Home." Red Allen recorded a version with his son Harley Allen and Curly Seckler titled "In Memory of the Man – Dedicated to Lester Flatt." The band Summer Wages recorded a version in 1983 on their self-titled album. And The Lonesome River Band recorded a version in 1985 on the album "I Guess Heartaches Are in Style This Year."

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

I'm Blue, I'm Lonesome

Bill Monroe, Hank Williams (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1950)

Key of Bb, 70 BPM

Chords

Verse

Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chorus

F F	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
C⁷ C⁷	C⁷ C⁷	F F	F F
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G
G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Chorus

D D	D D	G G	G G
A⁷ A⁷	A⁷ A⁷	D D	D D
G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I IV I
 The lonesome sound of a train going by

V I
 Makes me wanna stop and cry
 I recall the day it took you away
 I'm blue, I'm lonesome too

V I
 When I hear that whistle blow
 II V
 I want to pack my clothes and go
 The lonesome sound of a train going by
 Makes me want to stop and cry

In the still of the night, in the pale moonlight
 The wind it moans and cry
 These lonesome blues, I just can't lose
 I'm blue, I'm lonesome too

Chorus

I'm blue, I'm lonesome too

Notes:

Originally this song was credited to James B. Smith when it was recorded by Bill Monroe February 3, 1950. It was one of the first songs recorded for Decca Records after Monroe left Columbia. The origins of this song are a little cloudy. Hank Williams joined the Grande Ole Opry in 1949 and worked several shows with Bill Monroe. Originally it was thought the pseudonym of "James B. Smith" was for both Hank and Bill. However, all the royalties for the song went to Bill. Publisher Acuff-Rose challenged successfully for shares of this song in 1990. Bill said that he wrote portions of the song. Jimmy Martin has said that Hank Williams wrote the entire song. Jimmy sang tenor on the original recording.

Having twin credits of Bill Monroe and Hank Williams has made this song very popular in both bluegrass and country. Marty Stuart recorded a country version in 1991 on his album "Tempted." Red Allen, David Grisman, Herb Pedersen, Jim Buchanan, Jerry Garcia and James Kerwin recorded a version on the album "Bluegrass Reunion" in 1992. Red Allen also recorded a version with Frank Wakefield and David Grisman in 1963 (found on the album "Kitchen Tapes." More recently, The Grascals recorded a version with Hank Williams Jr. on the album "The Famous Lefty Flynn's" in 2010.

The song is typically done as a duet, with the line "When I Hear that whistle blow, I want to pack my clothes (suitcase) and go" as a solo.

I'm Coming Back But I Don't Know When

Charlie Monroe (ver. The Country Gentlemen, 1961)

Key of A, 70 BPM

Chords												Chords (Capo 2 nd Fret)													
	A	A		A	A		D	D		D	D			G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	E	E		E	E		A	A		A	A			D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		A	A		D	D		D	D			G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	E	E		E	E		A	A		A	A			D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV
I'm going down this lonesome road
V I
To find my fate or victory
IV
Our God must help us there to win
V I
I'm coming back but I don't know when

I hate to leave my mother dear
My father who is old and gray
But my true love I know you'll wait
Till I come back to you to stay

Chorus

When I come back will you be here
Or will your love fade like a rose
I could never come back should you be gone
My love for you nobody knows

Chorus

Notes:

Bill and Charlie Monroe disbanded in 1938. While Bill went on to become the father of bluegrass, Charlie continued to write, sing and record country music up to his retirement in 1957. Charlie performed with his brother Birch and Bill in 1969 for the Smithsonian Festival of American Culture. He continued to play festivals – in 1974 he was diagnosed with cancer in 1974 and passed away in 1975. Initially he recorded without banjo in his band. Musicians that played in Charlie's band included Lester Flatt, Curly Seckler, Ira Louvin and Red Rector. In 1947, Charlie Monroe wrote and recorded this song in 1947 as the B-side (the A-side was It's Only a Phonograph Record).

Country Gentlemen recorded this song on the album "Sing & Play Folk Songs & Bluegrass" in 1961. Jimmy Martin was a big Charlie Monroe fan (in 1972, Jimmy convinced Charlie to play at the Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival that relaunched his career). Jimmy Martin recorded "I'm Coming Back But I Don't Know When" in March 1965 with Mike Miller on banjo, Vernon Derrick on mandolin and Floyd "Lightnin'" Chance on upright bass. Norman Blake and Tony Rice recorded this song on their 1987 album "Blake & Rice." The Lonesome River Band recorded this song on their 1994 album "Carrying the Tradition." This song was also recorded by the Slocan Ramblers on their 2012 album "Shaking Down the Acorns."

This song is sung both as a duet and a trio on the choruses. It was originally recorded as a duet by Charlie Monroe.

I'm Gone, Long Gone

Red Smiley and Don Reno (ver. Reno and Smiley, 1952)

Key of A, 141 BPM

Chords

	A	A		A	A		A	A		A	A	
	D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A	
	A	A		A	A		A	A		A	A	
	E	E		E	E		A	A		A	A	

Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)

	G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I
Long gone is how I'm leaving
IV I
Long gone why do you cry

This is what you wanted baby
V I
So I'm gone, long gone

I have tried to make you happy
Still you say I've done you wrong
So I'm giving up my darlin'
I'll be gone long gone

Chorus

Just a few short words of parting
Don't shed your tears they won't atone
For my things are packed to travel
I'll be gone long gone

Chorus

Please don't try to overtake me
What I ride will be too fast
This is it we're through forever
I'm long gone and free at last

Chorus

Notes:

This song was recorded at Reno and Smiley's first recording session in January, 1952 for King studio, with "I'm Gone, Long Gone" as the A-side and "Tennessee Cutup Breakdown" as the B-side. The song was re-released on the LP "Good Old Country Ballads" (1959) and can also be found on "Bluegrass is Timeless - Country Boy Rock 'n' Roll." Another notable recording is The Lonesome River Band, from the album "Old Country Town."

Originally recorded as a duet with tenor harmony throughout the chorus.

I'm Gonna Sleep With One Eye Open

Lester Flatt (ver. Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and the Foggy Mountain Boys, 1955)

Key of Eb, 112 BPM

Chords

Verse

Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb

Chorus

Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

C C	C C	C C	C C
C C	C C	G G	G G
C C	C C	C C	C C
C C	G G	C C	C C

Chorus

F F	F F	C C	C C
C C	C C	G G	G G
C C	C C	C C	C C
C C	G G	C C	C C

Lyrics:

I
 I just found out today the little game you play
 V
 I've been sleeping all my life away
 I
 You've been stepping so they say between midnight and day
 V I
 So I'm gonna sleep with one eye open from now on
 IV I
 From now on (from now on) all night long (all night long)
 V
 You won't have a chance to treat your daddy wrong
 You've been stepping so they say between midnight and day
 So I'm gonna sleep with one eye open from now on

There's honky tonk down the road just a mile or so
 I understand that's where you spend your time
 Baby I got news for you your little game is through
 From now on baby you're gonna toe the line

Chorus

You thought you were being wise running around with other guys
 And leaving me to spend my time alone
 But you'll find out today it don't work out that way
 You started a little game that two can play

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Lester Flatt and recorded by Flatt and Scruggs January 23, 1955. Paul Warren on fiddle, Curly Seckler on mandolin, Flatt on guitar, Scruggs on banjo and Jake Tullock on upright bass. Eddie Hill was also playing guitar, playing a heavy "vamp" closed chord, sometimes called "sock-rhythm."

This song was first released June 20, 1955 as the B-side. The A-side was "Before I Met You." The song "I'm Gonna Sleep With One Eye Open" was banned on some radio stations, including WSM due to what is implied in this song (similar to bans on the song "Wake Up Little Suzie.")

Hot Rize recorded a version of this song on their live album "Hot Rize Extra Added Attraction Red Knuckles & The Trailblazers - In Concert." Dolly Parton also released a version of this song in 1999 on her bluegrass album "The Grass Is Blue." And in 2011 Chris Thile and Michael Daves recorded a version on the album "Sleep With One Eye Open."

The song is sung as a trio on the very last line of the chorus and the bracketed words in the first line of the chorus as call and response.

I'm Head Over Heels

Lester Flatt (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1950)
Key of G, 115 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
G G G G G G G G	D D D D D D D D
G G D D G G G G	D D A A D D D D
Chorus	Chorus
C C C C G G G G	G G G G G G G G
G G D D G G G G	D D A A D D D D

Lyrics:

I
I think I'll go across the ocean

If I don't change my notion
V I
I just got to forget you if I can

IV
Oh I'm feeling so blue
I
I don't know what to do
V I
For I'm head over heels in love with you

Every day is sad and lonely
For I'm thinking of you only
Oh I just can't sleep when I lay down

Chorus

Oh the nights are long and dreary
All I do is sit and worry
I just can't bear the thought of losing you

Chorus

Oh I like to be forgiven
But this life ain't worth living
If I have to sit and worry over you

Chorus

Notes:

A classic bluegrass song written by Lester Flatt, also titled "Head Over Heels."

Recorded November 21, 1950, it was released as an A-side (the B-side was "We Can't Be Darlings Anymore." Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so Earls' banjo was tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So to play along with the original recording, a capo is required on the first fret or you need to retune. The Osborne Brothers did a version on their 1978 album "Bluegrass Collection." And J.D. Crowe, Tony Rice, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks and Todd Phillips (with Jerry Douglas) did a version on the 1985 album "The Bluegrass Album Volume Four."

Originally, the chorus was sung with no harmony. Typically you will hear the chorus with three-part harmony.

I'm Lost, I'll Never Find the Way

Traditional (ver. The Stanley Brothers and the Clinch Mountain Boys, 1956)

Key of Bb 136 BPM

Chords

	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		F	F	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$	

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV I V
 Lonesome, lonesome, pining away
 I
 Now you say its best to part
 IV
 Even though it breaks my heart
 I V I
 I'm lost and I'll never find the way

 I IV
 Since you said we must part darling you have broke my heart
 I V
 I am drifting like a ship lost at sea
 I IV
 In a world of despair it's so lonesome there
 I V I
 Why don't you come back to me

Chorus

You said you'd be true no one else would ever do
 I believed you with all my heart and soul
 But you broke every vow and it's all over now
 I'm left in this world lone and cold

Chorus

Notes:

When the Stanley Brothers first recorded this song, Ralph Stanley was given a writing credit. However, the song dates back to the 1900s.

In the early 1950s, finances forced The Stanley Brothers to quit music and work for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit. In the summer of 1951, Carter rejoined the music world, but this time as the lead singer for Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys. And an auto accident almost ended Ralph Stanley's career. Following Ralph's recovery, Carter and Ralph reunited to form the Stanley Brothers once more.

The song was first recorded by The Stanley Brothers July 16, 1956 at Bradley Studios in Nashville. Ralph on banjo, Carter on guitar, Curley Lambert on mandolin, Chubby Anthony and Ralph Mayo on twin fiddles and Doug Morris on bass. It was released in 1957 as the A-side (the B-side was "The Flood."). Cliff Waldron recorded this song in 1973 on the album "Bluegrass Time." Ricky Skaggs recorded this song in 1982 on his album "Family & Friends." After this album, Ricky Skaggs would switch from bluegrass to country.

The first line and the last line are sung in harmony on the chorus. The Stanley Brothers recorded this is a duet, but it is also sung as a trio.

I'm Sittin' on Top of the World

Carter and Jacobs (Walter Vinson and Lonnie Chatmon) (ver. Bill Monroe, 1957)

Key of D, 115 BPM

Chords

	D	D		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		D	D	
	D	D		D	D		D	D	
	D	D		A	A		D	D	

Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)

	C	C		C	C		C	C	
	F	F		F	F		C	C	
	C	C		C	C		C	C	
	C	C		G	G		C	C	

Lyrics:

I
Was in the spring one sunny day
IV I
My good gal left me, she gone away

But now she's gone and I don't worry
V I
Lord I'm sitting on top of the world

She called me in Dallas and El Paso
Said come on daddy, I need you so

Chorus

Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust
Show me a woman a man can trust

Chorus

The Mississippi River, runs deep and wide
The one I'm loving is on the other side

Chorus

(additional verses)

You don't like my peaches, don't you shake my tree
Get out of my orchard, let my peaches be

Chorus

Don't you come here running, holding out your hand
I'll get me a woman like you got your man

Chorus

Notes:

Written by two members of the band "The Mississippi Sheiks," who recorded the song in 1930. Walter Vinson (who would sometimes go as Walter Jacobs) was a guitarist and singer, and Lonnie Chatmon (who would write under the last name Carter) was the fiddle player. This song became a standard of Americana music. It became a popular western swing number after Milton Brown recorded it in 1934 and Bob Wills recorded a version in 1935. Ray Charles did an early version in 1949. Howlin' Wolf's 1957 version is very well known, as is Grateful Dead's version from 1967. More recently, Jack White recorded a version in 2003 for the movie "Cold Mountain."

To make this confusing, there is a song "I'm Sittin' On Top of the World" that was popularized by Al Jolson (and written by Ray Henderson, Sam Lewis and Joe Young) in 1926, but they are very different. Bill Monroe sings the Vinson/Chatman version, but gives writing credits to Henderson, Lewis and Young.

Recorded by Bill Monroe on May 14, 1957. It was released as an A-Side (with Molly and Tenbrooks as the B-side), but also released on the album "Knee Deep in Bluegrass." It was recorded by Doc Watson in 1964 on his self-titled Vanguard album. Other notable recordings include Seldom Scene "15th Anniversary Celebration Live at the Kennedy Center" from 1988. Lonesome River Band also recorded a version in 1994 for their album "Carrying the Tradition."

This song has multiple versions of lyrics (sometimes modified from other songs). Bill Monroe sang this song with no harmony. The chorus is typically sung in three-part harmony. There can be a VI minor in the chorus (on the word "worry.")

I'm Using My Bible For a Roadmap

Charles Schroeder and Don Reno (ver. Reno and Smiley 1952)

Key of A, 94BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse A A A A D D D D E E E E A A A A A A A A D D D D E E E E A A A A Chorus E E E E A A A A B B B B E E E E A A A A D D D D E E E E A A A A	Verse G G G G C C C C D D D D G G G G G G G G C C C C D D D D G G G G Chorus D D D D G G G G A A A A D D D D G G G G C C C C D D D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I V I
There'll be no detours in heaven
II V
No rough roads along the way
I IV
I'm using my Bible for a road map
I V I
My last stop is heaven some sweet day
I IV
I'm using my Bible for a road map
I V I
Ten Commandments they tell me what to do
The twelve disciples are my road signs
And Jesus will take me safely through

Chorus

I'm using my Bible for a road map
The children of Israel used it too
They crossed the Red Sea of Destruction
For God was there to see them through

Chorus

Notes:

Cowritten by Charles Schroeder and Don Reno – It was recorded by Don Reno, Red Smiley and the Tennessee Cutups in January of 1952. It was released in March as the B-side (the A-side was "Hear Jerusalem Mourn.")

Porter Wagoner and the Blackwood Brothers Quartet recorded this song in January of 1966, and it became a much-loved gospel number both in bluegrass and country music. The Country Gentlemen recorded a version on the 1971 album, "One Wide River to Cross." Jim and Jesse and the Virginia Boys recorded a version in 1990 on their album "I'm Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing."

Originally recorded as a quartet on the choruses.

I've Been All Around This World

Traditional (ver. Hot Rize, 1996)

Key of F, 128 BPM

Chords										Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)									
	F	F		F	F		F	F			C	C		C	C		C	C	
	C	C		F	F		B $\flat$	B $\flat$			G	G		C	C		F	F	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F			F	F		F	F		C	C	
	C	C		F	F		F	F			G	G		C	C		C	C	

Lyrics:

I
Working on the new railroad, mud up to my knees
V I IV I
I'm digging on the new railroad, mud up to my knees
IV I
Working for old John Henry, he's mighty hard to please
V I
I've been all around this world

Hang me, oh, hang me 'til I'm dead and gone
Hang me, oh, hang me 'til I'm dead and gone
I wouldn't mind the hanging it's staying in jail so long
I've been all around this world

Mama and papa and baby sister makes three
Mama and papa and baby sister makes three
March me down to the gallows that'll be the end of me
I've been all around this world

Out on the Blue Ridge Mountain, there I'll make my stand
And out on the Blue Ridge Mountain, there I'll make my stand
The rifle on my shoulder, six shooter in my hand
I've been all around this world

If you meet a rich gal, just send her down the line
And if you meet a rich girl, just send her down the line
But if you meet a poor girl, I'll be she's a friend of mine
I've been all around this world.

Notes:

The origins of this song is in reference to an unnamed murderer hanged in the 1870s, under the title "My Father Was a Gambler." It has also been titled "The Gambler," "The New Railroad," "Hang Me Oh Hang Me" and many more. The first recording was sung by Justis Begley and captured by Alan and Elizabeth Lomax in Hazard Kentucky in October of 1937. There are many speculations as to who the person being hanged was. Some believe it was John Childers, who spoke for 16 minutes on the scaffold in 1972. His life would have been spared if he would reveal the name of his accomplices. He refused and asked "Didn't you say you were going to hang me?" After the marshall answered in the affirmative, Childers replied "Then, why in the hell don't you."

The first commercial recording was in 1946 by Grandpa Jones. In 1963, it was recorded by Dave Van Ronk (the movie "Inside Llewyn Davis" is loosely based on Dave Van Ronk's life). Mike Seeger recorded a version in 1973, as did The Grateful Dead. Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys recorded the song in 1995 on the album Diamond Joe. Tim O'Brien regularly performs this song as well, and recorded this song on the album Hot Rize presents Red Knuckles & The Trailblazers in 1996.

There are a wide variation of lyrics and variation in singing. Hot Rize performs this song with harmony on the line "I've Been All Around This World"

Ice Covered Birches

Carl Hoffman (ver. Cliff Waldron and New Shades of Grass 1971)

Key of F, 150 BPM (3/4 time)

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Chorus	Chorus
F F B $\flat$ F F F F C C	C C F C C C C G G
F F B $\flat$ F F F C B $\flat$ B $\flat$	C C F C C C G F F
F C F F	C G C C
Chorus	Chorus
F F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ F F C C	C C F C F C C G G
F F B $\flat$ F F F C F F	C C F C C C G C C

Lyrics:

I IV I
 Ice-covered birches on a cold winter's morn
 V
 From the hillside they shimmer, and glimmer, and shine
 I IV I
 But their branches are broken, and their heads are bowed low
 V IV
 Like the sad, tender heart of that darlin' of mine
 I V I
 Like the heart of that darlin' of mine
 IV I
 In a far northern cabin, while dawn was just breakin'
 IV I V
 From my sleep, I was shaken, by the touch of her hand
 I IV I
 And she knows that I'm leavin', but she shed's not her grievin'
 IV I V I
 Her heart beats, believin', I'll return if I can.

Chorus

Now the northland lies endless, but there's men fit for countin'
 Every muskeg* and mountain, as its wildness they tame
 But a man can fall broken, by a fury unspoken
 Human strength, just a token, and a girl waits in vain

Chorus

After joys and deceivings they went about leavin'
They bid there anew to the land of extremes
With tears and with laughter they live life ever after
In a promising village, a land of new dreams

Notes:

Carl Hoffman wrote this song in 1971 when early construction was taking place on the Trans-Alaskan oil pipeline. The protagonist of the song is a construction worker leaving his cabin home near Fairbanks to work on the pipeline.

The song was first recorded by Hoffman with his band The Pine Hill Ramblers on their 1971 album "Further Up the River." Cliff Waldron and his band The New Shades of Grass would record the song that same year on the album Traveling Light. Cliff and his band were part of the new generation of bluegrass artists bringing more of a folk sound to the bluegrass genre. Band members Ben Eldridge and Mike Auldrige from The New Shades of Grass would go onto form Seldom Scene. More recently, the Po' Ramblin' Boys recorded their version for their 2019 album Toil, Tears & Trouble, adding an additional third verse.

The song features three-part harmony on the chorus.

In Despair

Joe Ahr (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1957)
Key of D, 116 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse D D D D D D D D G G G G D D D D D D D D D D D D D D A A D D D D Chorus G G G G D D D D D D D D A A A A G G G G D D D D D D A A D D D D	Verse C C C C C C C C F F F F C C C C C C C C C C C C C C G G C C C C Chorus F F F F C C C C C C C C G G G G F F F F C C C C C C G G C C C C

Lyrics:

I
 You made me love you, you made me want you
 IV I
 And now I need you all the time

 My heart is sad and I'm so lonely
 V I
 Each night and day you're on my mind

 IV I
 You broke me heart my little darling
 V
 When I called for you, you had another there
 IV I
 But a broken heart will keep on crying
 V I
 I know you know, I'm in despair

 You made me forget of all the others
 You made me forget of all the past
 And I thought sweetheart you really loved me
 My friends told me it would never last

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

"Joe Ahr" was one of the pseudonyms Bill Monroe penned under (other pseudonyms included Rupert Jones, Wilbur Jones, Albert Price, James B. Smith & James W. Smith. Bill Monroe wrote this song after paying a surprise visit to a girlfriend in Burlington, North Carolina. When he arrived, there was a car in the driveway that Bill recognized as belonging to another man who had been courting the lady. Bill drove off, never to return.

This song was recorded in 1957 and released in 1958 on the album "Knee Deep in Blue Grass," the first 33 1/3 album cut by Bill Monroe. Other notable recordings include Dreadful Snakes on the 1983 album "Snakes Alive," Del McCoury Band "Old Memories - The Songs of Bill Monroe" and Country Gazette off the 1977 album "What a Way to Make a Living."

The chorus is sung as a trio. The original recording has a trio fiddle, and Bill Monroe did "cross tuning" on his mandolin, retuning the "G-strings" to an A.

In the Gravel Yard

Malcolm Pulley (ver. Blue Highway, 1996)

Key of B 110BPM

<u>Chords</u>												<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>													
	B	B		B	B		E	E		B	B			G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G	
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B			G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	
	B	B		B	B		E	E		B	B			G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G	
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B			G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV I
 In the gravel yard, with a number for my name
 V I
 Making little rocks out of big rocks all day
 IV I
 Oh, the work is mighty hard in the gravel yard
 V I
 I'll never be a free man, so they say

Warden hear my plea, listen now to me
 I killed a man that I caught with my wife
 You'd probably done the same, so I am not to blame
 Sentenced to the rest of my life

Chorus

In the driving rain with a ball and chain
 My hammer rings a low mournful sound
 It sings a little song for the ones who done me wrong
 Who lie beneath the cold, cold ground

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

It is rare for a contemporary song to be written and performed that becomes a "jam standard." However, Malcolm Pulley was able to. He has written a few songs that have been recorded by James King and Michelle Nixon, but none, at this time, have reached the popularity of "In the Gravel Yard."

Blue Highway recorded "In the Gravel Yard" in 1995 and it was released on their debut album "It's a Long Long Road." Tim Stafford, originally the guitar player with Alison Krauss and Union Station, helped organize Blue Highway with Wayne Taylor in 1994. Shawn Lane on fiddle, Jason Burleson on banjo and Rob Ickes on dobro would become the band. In 1998, Jason Burleson left the band and was replaced by Tom Adams for two years, at which time Jason returned. Tim Stafford, Shawn Lane and Wayne Taylor are all accomplished songwriters; however, arguably, their most famous song was written by someone else. Blue Highway is one of the leaders of the new, contemporary style of bluegrass, which combines traditional bluegrass with a polished studio sound performed by very accomplished musicians. Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver also recorded a version on the 1995 album "Never Walk Away."

The chorus is sung as a duet by Blue Highway. Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver sung the song as a trio.

In the Pines

Traditional (ver. Bill Monroe, 1952)
Key of E 112 BPM

Chords

| E | E | A | E | E | B | E | E |

Chords (Capo 4th Fret)

| C | C | F | C | C | G | C | C |

Lyrics:

Hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

I IV I

The longest train I ever saw

V I

Went down that Georgia line

IV I

The engine passed at six o'clock

V I

And the cab passed by at nine

In the pines, in the pines

Where the sun never shines

And we shiver when the cold wind blows

Hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo, hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo

I asked my captain for the time of day

He said he threwed his watch away

A long steel rail and a short cross tie

I'm on my way back home

Chorus

Little girl, little girl, what have I done

That makes you treat me so?

You caused me to weep, you caused me to moan

You caused me to leave my home

Chorus

Notes:

This song dates back to the mid-1850s and seems to have originated in the Appalachian region. At that time, it was known as "Where Did You Sleep Last Night," or "Black Girl." There are many different lyrics, but the frequent elements are a chorus with "in the pines," a verse about "the longest train" and/or a verse about decapitation. It was first recorded by Dock Walsh on April 17, 1926. Fiddlin' Arthur Smith recorded a version in 1938. It was also famously recorded by the grunge band Nirvana as "Where Did You Sleep Last Night" on "MTV Unplugged in New York."

The two most influential recordings of the song were Lead Belly and Bill Monroe, and both recorded the song in the 1940s and the 1950s. Bill Monroe's first version was on October 2, 1941, which is considered "pre-bluegrass" (with Clyde Moody singing harmony). He recorded it again on July 18, 1952 (which is the version above) with Jimmy Martin and Sonny Osborne (with Charlie Cline on fiddle). The song has been covered many times. The Louvin Brothers released a version in 1956 on "Tragic Songs of Life." Doc Watson has recorded the song numerous times. The Kentucky Colonels recorded this song at the 1964 Newport Folk Festival (on the album "Long Journey Home"). Another significant version is by Ralph Stanley and Jimmy Martin on the album "First Time Together," released in 1980.

Typically the entire song is sung as a duet. Bill Monroe (and others) also have a wind sound effect after the line "cold wind blows" and after the yodel.

Is It Too Late Now

Lester Flatt (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1950)

Key of D $\flat$ 98 BPM

Chords	Chords (Capo 1 st Fret)
D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$	C C C C F F F F
A $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$	G G G G C C C C
D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$	C C C C F F F F
A $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$	G G G G C C C C

Lyrics:

I IV
Is it too late now to tell you that I love you
V I
Or is there still a chance for me somehow
IV
Oh they tell me now that you have found another
V I
Darlin' please don't say it's too late now

I know this heart of mine could never stand it
If I should have to give you up somehow
Oh won't you say that you'll give me one more chance dear
Darlin' please don't say it's too late now

Chorus

I confess I know I done you wrong, dear
Oh can't you see my side of it somehow
All I ask of you is one more chance dear
Darlin' please don't say it's too late now

Chorus

Notes:

Recorded at the third recording session of Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, after they left Bill Monroe. This session was the first session with fiddler Benny Sims, December 11, 1949 in Cincinnati. It was released in 1950 as the A-side. The B-side was the gospel song "So Happy I'll Be." It was at this session they recorded "Foggy Mountain Breakdown." Lester is given full writing credit on this song. Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, (to better match Lester's voice). So while the key is in C#, they would have been playing out of C-shapes. To play this song with the original recording, you may wish to retune.

This song was originally recorded with no harmony. It was recorded by The Bluegrass Album Band on their second release, Volume 2. The Bluegrass Cardinals recorded a version on their album "Livin' in the Good Old Days" with three-part harmony.

It Takes One To Know One

Harlan Howard and Freddie Hart (ver. Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys, 1964)
Key of A, 93 BPM

Chords

| A | A | D | D | E | E | A | A |
| A | A | D | D | E | E | A | A |

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

| G | G | C | C | D | D | G | G |
| G | G | C | C | D | D | G | G |

Lyrics:

Little girl you stand out in the crowd
Oh you're laughing you're talking much too loud
But I see your little tear peaking through
It takes one to know one and I know you

It takes one to know one and I know you
A little tear through your smile I see through
You've been hurt and you're frightened you're so blue
It takes one to know one and I know you

Little girl please take hold of my hand
You can go on and cry, I'll understand
Pay no mind if I start crying too
It takes one to know one and I know you

Chorus

Verse 1

Chorus

Notes:

Harlan Howard got his start in Bakersfield as a fledgling songwriter. Wynn Stewart recorded Harlan's song "You Took Her Off My Hands." From that moment, his compositions were in hot demand, and would be for decades. His body of work is well over 4,000 songs, with hits such as "I Fall To Pieces," "Heartaches By the Number," "Foolin' Around" and this song, "It Takes One To Know One." Howard co-wrote this song with Freddie Hart, a songwriter and singer that also got caught up in the Bakersfield sound. Freddie's biggest hit was "Easy Loving," released in 1970, spending three weeks at number 1 on the country charts.

"It Takes One to Know One" was recorded by Jimmy Martin August 13, 1964 along with Grady Martin on guitar, Mike Miller on banjo, Vernon Derrick on mandolin and Roy Huskey Jr. on upright bass. It was released as the A-side (with Guitar Picking President as Side B). Chris Thile and Michael Daves recorded a version of the song in 2011 on the album "Sleep With One Eye Open."

The song is sung as a trio on the last two lines of every verse.

I've Endured

Ola Belle Reed and David Reed (ver. Del McCoury 1975)
Key of Bb, 154 BPM

Chords

Verse

Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb
F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb
F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb	

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	G G	C C
C C	C C	C C	C C
G G	G G	C C	C C
C C	G G	G G	C C
C C	G G	G G	C C
D D	G G	G G	

Lyrics:

I IV
Born in the mountains fifty years ago

I
I traveled the hills and valleys through the rain and snow

IV I
Seen the lightning flashing heard the thunder roll

IV I
I've endured, I've endured

IV V I
How long can one endure?

Barefoot in the summer running through the fog
Too many mouths to feed they couldn't hold us all
Trip to church on Sunday to learn the golden rule
I've endured, I've endured
How long can one endure?

I've worked for the rich I've lived with the poor
I've seen many a heartache and I'll see many more.
I've lived luck and sorrow been to success and stone
I've endured, I've endured
How long can one endure?

Notes:

Olla Belle Reed was born Ola Wave Campbell in 1916 in North Carolina – the fourth of thirteen children. She learned clawhammer banjo and sang old time songs with her family. In the mid-30s she joined the North Carolina Ridge Runners, and then formed the New River Boys and Girls with her brother Alex Campbell. With that band she played a music park called the New River Ranch in Maryland, Pennsylvania. In 1949 she married Ralph Reed and had two sons, David and Ralph. She co-wrote this song with her son David on her 50th birthday in 1966 and would regularly perform it on stage. However, she didn't record it until 1976 on her album "My Epitaph" in 1976.

Prior to Ola Belle Reed releasing the song, Del McCoury recorded the song on a 1975 album titled "Del McCoury." Tim O'Brien recorded the song on his 2003 album "Traveler." And Missy Raines recorded the song on her 2018 album "Royal Traveller."

The song is typically sung with three-part harmony on the end line of each verse "I've endured, I've endured – How long can one endure?"

Knee Deep in Loving You

Sonny Throckmorton (ver. Bluegrass Cardinals, 1978)

Key of A 129 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>									
	A	A		A	A		D	D		D	D						
	E	E		E	E		A	A		A	A						
	A	A		A	A		D	D		D	D						
	E	E		E	E		A	A		A	A						

Lyrics:

I IV
I'm knee deep in loving you
V I
I done got deeper than I wanted to
IV
It might drown me before I'm through
V I
Cause I'm knee deep in loving you

I thought I'd wade your waters just enough to cool me down
Wet my feet and find my way to some higher ground
But I keep on getting deeper and there's just one way to go
Too late I find I'm caught up in your undertow

Chorus

Everybody's saying you're not the staying kind
Ain't it like a natural fool to think you will this time
It's too late for changing this feeling down in me
And I'm standing here with more than just sand on my feet

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Sonny Throckmorton has had more than 1,000 songs recorded by various country singers, including Merle Haggard, The Oak Ridge Boys, George Strait and many more. Between 1976 and 1980, at least one of his songs appeared on the country charts almost every week. "Knee Deep in Loving You" was first recorded by Roy Drusky in 1974. But it was Dave & Sugar's recording in 1977 that went to number 2 on the Billboard charts (it was also recorded by Tanya Tucker and Tom Bresh in 1977).

The Bluegrass Cardinals were formed in Los Angeles California in 1974 by Don Parmley, Randy Graham and Don's son, David Parmley. Some interesting trivia – Don Parmley is credited with the banjo work from "The Beverly Hillbillies," though not the intro theme song – the incidental music throughout the show. In 1976 they moved to Virginia and signed with Rounder Records. They were known for their tight harmonies and they were the first bluegrass band to record bluegrass gospel a cappella. The Bluegrass Cardinals recorded this song in 1978 on their album "Livin' in the Good Old Days."

The song is sung as a trio on the choruses.

Let Us Travel, Travel On

Ira and Charlie Louvin (ver. Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, 1989)

Key of Bb, 140 BPM

Chords

Verse

Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
F F	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
F F	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chorus

Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	F F	F F
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
F F	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	C C	C C
D D	D D	G G	G G
G G	G G	C C	C C
D D	D D	G G	G G

Chorus

C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	G G	D D	D D
G G	G G	C C	C C
D D	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I IV
 There's a home high up in heaven
 V I
 Where with saints I'll ever dwell
 When the road of life is ended
 And I'll bid this world farewell
 IV I
 There's no weary ones in heaven
 V
 Only gladness will be known
 Sinner come accept the Savior
 Let us travel travel on

I have give my heart to Jesus
 Turned away from sin and shame
 In that book of life in Heaven
 God has written down my name

Chorus

When this weary life is over
 And when saints go marching home
 Will your soul be free from sorrow
 Or in sin be ye unknown

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Ira and Charlie Louvin sang country music, with a significant focus on gospel music, through the 1950s and into the 1960s. Ira was a significant songwriter, writing songs such as "When I Stop Dreaming," "Cash on the Barrelhead," "You're Running Wild," and many more. Additionally, as a duet, their complicated duet harmony would have major impacts on pretty much all country and bluegrass artists to follow. Emmylou Harris, Chris Hillman and Marty Stuart are just some of the major fans of the Louvin Brothers. The brothers broke up in 1963, largely due to Ira's alcoholism and reckless behaviour on and off stage. Ira would die in a car accident in 1963.

Let Us Travel, Travel On was first recorded by The Louvin Brothers in September of 1953. Mandolin player Herschel Sizemore would record this song with his band The Shenandoah Cutups in 1973 on the album "The Shenandoah Cutups Sing Gospel." Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver would record their version of the song in July of 1988, released on the album I'll Wander Back Someday (with Russell Moore teaming up with Doyle on vocals). Del McCoury and Marty Stuart would cover \ another version on the tribute album to the Louvin Brothers, released in 2003 and titled "Livin', Lovin', Losin' - Songs of the Louvin Brothers.

The entire song is sung as a duet.

Little Cabin Home on the Hill

Lester Flatt and Bill Monroe (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys 1948)

Key of A 90 BPM

<u>Chords</u>															
Verse															
	A	A		A	A		D	D		A	A				
	A	A		A	A		E	E		E	E				
	A	A		A	A		D	D		A	A				
	A	A		E	E		A	A		A	A				
Chorus															
	D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A				
	A	A		A	A		E	E		E	E				
	A	A		A	A		D	D		A	A				
	A	A		E	E		A	A		A	A				

<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>															
Verse															
	G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G				
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D				
	G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G				
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G				
Chorus															
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G				
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D				
	G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G				
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G				

Lyrics:

I IV I
 Tonight I'm alone without you my dear
 V
 It seems there's a longing for you still
 I IV I
 All I have to do now is sit alone and cry
 V I
 In our little cabin home on the hill
 IV I
 Oh someone has taken you from me
 And left me here all alone
 Just listen to the rain beat on my window pane
 In our little cabin home on the hill

I hope you are happy tonight as you are
 But in my heart there's a longing for you still
 I just keep it there so I won't be alone
 In our little cabin home on the hill

Chorus

Now when you have come to the end of the way
 And find there's no more happiness for you
 Just let your thoughts turn back once more if you will
 To our little cabin home on the hill

Chorus

Notes:

This song is one of the 28 songs recorded by Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, Howard Watts and Chubby Wise (though some of those recordings had Howdy Forrester on fiddle and Joe Forrester on bass). This song was an original written specifically for the band by Lester Flatt and Bill Monroe. Like many of those songs recorded, it would become a bluegrass standard.

This song was first recorded on October 27, 1947 in Chicago. It was released in 1948 as the B-side (the A-side was "I Hear a Sweet Voice Calling").

Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins recorded a very brief version of this song on December 4 of 1956. Porter Wagoner would record a full version in 1965. Flatt and Scruggs played this song live in 1960 with the Foggy Mountain Boys at The Newport Festival, and it was released on the album "The Newport Folk Festival - Volume 2." Ricky Skaggs recorded a version on his 1979 album "Sweet Temptation." Tony Rice recorded a version with David Grisman on mandolin, J.D. Crowe on banjo, Jim Buchanen on fiddle, and Roy Husky Jr. on bass. Curly Seckler also joined them to sing harmony on the David Grisman album "Home is Where the Heart Is," released in 1988.

It was original recorded as a duet with Lester on lead and Bill on harmony. Typically it is sung with three-part harmony on the choruses.

Long Journey Home

Traditional (ver. The Kentucky Colonels, 1964)
Key of A 155 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>														
	A	A		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		A	A		D	D			G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G	
	A	A		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		E	E		A	A			G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I
Lost all my money but a two dollar bill
IV I
Two dollar bill lord, two dollar bill

Lost all my money but a two dollar bill
V I
And I'm on my long journey home

Black smoke's a rising, surely is a train
Surely is a train lord, surely is a train
Black smoke's a rising, surely is a train
And I'm on my long journey home

Homesick and lonesome, feeling kind of blue
Feeling kind of blue, lord, feeling kind of blue
Homesick and lonesome, feeling kind of blue
And I'm on my long journey home

Pretty girls a waiting on down the line
On down the line lord, on down the line
Pretty girls a waiting on down the line
And I'm on my long journey home

Chorus

Notes:

Surprisingly little history exists for a song that has been recorded as frequently as this song (also known as "Two Dollar Bill.")

On February 17, 1936, Bill Monroe and his brother Charlie recorded for the first time after playing together as a duet for country dances. "My Long Journey Home" was one of ten songs they recorded (in addition to "Nine Pound Hammer," "The New River Train," "Old Cross Roads" and "What Would You Give in Exchange For Your Soul.")

The number of bluegrass artists that have recorded "Long Journey Home" would be too numerous to include here. Some of the bands were The Lilly Brothers and Don Stover, The Stanley Brothers, Jim and Jesse, The Johnson Mountain Boys, Don Reno and Bill Harrell and the Tennessee Cutups and Jim Eanes. The version here is from a live album of The Kentucky Colonels, recorded at the 1964 Newport Folk Festival.

Typically sung as a duet. There are multiple verses, and the order of verses can change (with sometimes the chorus always being sung between verses).

Love and Wealth

Ira Louvin & Charlie Louvin (ver. Here Today, 1982)
Key of C, 107 BPM

Key of C, 167 BPM												Chords												Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)											
Verse												Verse												Verse											
C C C C F F C C												G G G G C C G G												G G G G C C G G											
C C C C G G G G												G G G G D D D D												G G G G D D D D											
C C C C F F C C												G G G G C C G G												G G G G C C G G											
C C D G C C C C												G G A D G G G G												G G A D G G G G											
Chorus												Chorus												Chorus											
C C F F C C C C												G G C C G G G G												G G C C G G G G											
C C G G C C C C												G G D D G G G G												G G D D G G G G											
F F F F C C C C												C C C C G G G G												C C C C G G G G											
G G G G C C C C												D D D D G G G G												D D D D G G G G											

Lyrics:

I IV I
Darling I am all alone in our little mountain home
V
It's lonely cold and loveless now inside
I IV I
For your childish vows of love lasted only one short year
II V I
Then you went away to be another's bride

IV I
You will never know the pain
V I
That I felt the day you left
IV I
Should you ever wed again
V I
Let me wish you love and wealth

Now that same old whippoorwill breaks the silence on the hill
As I stand and gaze upon that faded wall
Where your picture used to hang in a little golden frame
And the image of your smile I still recall

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

The Louvin Brothers originally wrote this song and recorded it as a demo. Carl Story & the Rambling Mountaineers were the first to record it in 1953. In 1960 Red Allen would record the song with Red Spurlock on banjo and Frank Wakefield on mandolin – the band was called The Red Heads.

Others have recorded this song as well. In 1982, Vince Gill, Herb Pedersen, David Grisman, Emory Gordy and Jim Buchanan recorded a number of bluegrass standards on the self-titled album Here Today. Love and Wealth was included.

In 1959 Earl Scruggs (and Earl Scruggs alone) was invited to play the Newport Folk Festival. Hylo Brown filled in at the festival for Lester (as Lester felt snubbed) – and one of the 8 songs that were recorded was Love and Wealth. It was released on the 2002 album Earl Scruggs, Classic Bluegrass Live 1959-1966.

This song is typically sung in three-part harmony. NOTE: In 2018 there were 29 Louvin Brother demo recordings “discovered.” They were recorded to pitch to other artists and were never intended for release. Love and Wealth is one of the 29 songs and is the title of the album – “Love and Wealth: The Lost Recordings.”

Love of the Mountains

Allen Mills (ver. Larry Sparks, 1980)

Key of A, 106 BPM

Chords												Chords (Capo 2 nd Fret)													
	A	A		D	D		A	A		A	A			G	G		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	E	E		D	D		A	A		A	A			D	D		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		D	D		A	A		A	A			G	G		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	E	E		D	D		A	A		A	A			D	D		C	C		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV I
 Two trees on a hillside of the mountain
 V IV I
 Always lookin' up towards the sky
 IV I
 Reminds me of my Papa and my Momma
 V IV I
 Who lived there eighty years before they died

Now a bright moon is shining in the valley
 That old wagon leans against a stack of hay
 Two graves on a hillside by a cabin
 My mom and dad are resting there today

The burning of the green wood on the fireplace
 The fallen snow around the redbud trees
 The branches of the laurel by the creek bed
 And the rippling waters of the gentle stream

Chorus

Papa used to talk about the young days
 When he and mama first were settled there
 He spoke about the love of the mountains
 That he and mama shared together there

Chorus

Notes:

Allen Mills was playing upright bass with a dance band in 1962, largely playing country music in the Danville area. A new dancehall was built with a dance floor for 1,000 people – and they called the building the T-Bird Country, hosting acts such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Dolly Parton and Porter Wagoner. They brought in a banjo player, Gene Parker, and the dance band, now known as the Country T-Birds would back up the main acts and be the house band. Gene and Allen left the T-Birds in 1972 and 1973 (respectively) and were living in Martinsville Virginia. Gene and Allen started to have jams with friends. This jam morphed into a band, adding Dempsey Young on mandolin and Roger Handy on guitar. They called themselves the Lost and Found. And this band would have a big influence on bands like Lonesome River Band and Blue Highway.

Lost and Found released the song Love of the Mountains on their first album, titled "The First Time Around" in 1975. Larry Sparks would record a version of the song for his album "John Deere Tractor" in 1980. More recently, Ronnie Bowman recorded a version in 2019 for his self-titled album.

This song was recorded by both Lost and Found and Larry Sparks with no harmony. Ronnie Bowman sings the song with tenor harmony on the choruses.

Love Please Come Home

Leon Jackson (ver. Reno and Smiley – 1961)
Key of A, 111 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>							
	A	A		A	A		A	A		G	G				
	D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A				
	D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A				
	A	A		E	E		A	A		A	A				

Lyrics:

I VII
As you read this letter that I write for you
IV I
Sweetheart I hope you'll understand
IV I
That you're the only love I knew
V I
Please forgive me if you can

Sweetheart I beg you to come home tonight
I'm so blue and all alone
I promise that I'll treat you right
Love, oh love oh please come home

That old wind is cold and slowly creeping 'round
And the fire is burning low
The snow has covered up the ground
Your baby's hungry sick and cold

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Leon Jackson was a banjo player and songwriter. He recorded a few sessions with Johnny Bryant and the White Oak Mountain Boys in the 50s. He recorded his song Love Please Come Home in 1956 on King Records.

Don Reno and Red Smiley recorded this song as Love Oh Love, Oh Please Come Home in 1961. It was Side A, while Side B was the instrumental Double Eagle. There is a live recording of Old and In the Way performing this song live from 1973 (released on the album "That High Lonesome Sound"). Bill Monroe recorded the song with his son James Monroe on the 1973 album "Father and Son." The band Bluegrass Reunion (Red Allen, David Grisman, Herb Pedersen, Jim Buchanan, James Kerwin and Jerry Garcia) recorded the song in 1992. And more recently, Jeff Scroggins and Colorado released the song on their album "Ramblin' Feels Good."

The song is typically recorded as a duo. It can be done as a trio.

The Man in the Middle

Tom "Harley" Campbell (ver. Hot Rize, 1981)
Key of G, 97 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
G G G G G G G G	D D D D D D D D
C C G G D D G G	G G D D A A D D
G G	D D
Chorus	Chorus
G G G F F F F	D D D C C C C
G G G G C C G G	D D D D G G D D
D D G G G G	A A D D D D

Lyrics:

I
Three men on the mountain up on Calvary
IV I
And the Man in the middle was Jesus
V I
He died for you and me
VII
Well the man on the left was a 94inning' man
I
Tied to the cross, he bled
IV I
He could have been forgiven
V I
But he mocked the Lord instead

You say you are the Son of God
They nailed you to that tree
Come down, come down and save us
If God your Father be

Chorus

Well the man on the right was a sinner too
But he was sorry for his sins
He begged the Lord's forgiveness
And Jesus said to him

Fear not, fear not this earthly death
Before this day is o'er
You'll be with me in Paradise
On Heaven's golden shore

Chorus

Notes:

Thomas Campbell, also known as Harley, was an upright bass player for the bluegrass band The Hotmud Family.

The song was first recorded by The Hotmud Family in 1979 on the album "Live, As We Know It." It was also recorded by Bill Grant and Delia Bell in 1980 on their self-titled album. But it was Hot Rize that would make this song a bluegrass standard when they would record it on their 1981 album "Radio Boogie." This song tells the story of the two men that joined Jesus on the top of Calvary. Interestingly, the only person in the bible that was guaranteed a place in heaven – the unnamed thief (also known as the "Good Thief," the "Penitent Thief" or the "Thief on the Cross").

Sung as a trio during the chorus.

Mary Ann

Johnny Stills and Lonnie Treat (ver. Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys, 1974)
Key of Bb, 83 BPM

Chords

Verse

Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chorus

F F	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
F F	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Eb Eb	Eb Eb	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

G G	C C	G G	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G
G G	C C	G G	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Chorus

D D	D D	G G	G G
D D	D D	G G	G G
C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I IV I
There's a girl on my mind I can't get over
V I
Who'd break the heart of any man
IV I
Without her things just fall to pieces
V I
Oh I'm singing about my Mary Ann
V I
So I'll just keep touching up my gray hair
V I
Live and hope someday she'll understand
IV I
It's no matter if I live to be a hundred
V I
There'll always be a place in my heart for Mary Ann

I know she's out there somewhere in a world that can't be found
Just to think of her still tears me down
If teardrops were pennies I'd be a wealthy man
From the tears I've cried for Mary Ann

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Johnny Stills and Lonnie Treat, they used "Mary Ann" after Mary Ann Garrison, who was president of the Jimmy Martin fan club.

There is a live version of this song from the album "Live, 1973 Bean Blossom." This album was (obviously) recorded live at the 1973 Bean Blossom festival, and features Bill Monroe, Jimmy Martin, Lester Flatt, Jim and Jesse McReynolds and James Monroe. There is a studio version on the Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys 1974 album "Fly Me to Frisco." The Lonesome River Band also did a version on their album "Talkin' To Myself" from 2000 (with Ronnie Bowman singing lead).

Chorus is done in three-part harmony.

Misery Loves Company

Jerry Reed (ver. Johnson Mountain Boys, 1983)
Key of A, 175 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>															
	A	A		A	D		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	C		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		A	A		E	E		E	E			G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	A	A		A	D		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	C		G	G		G	G	
	E	E		E	E		A	A		A ⁷	A ⁷			D	D		D	D		G	G		G ⁷	G ⁷	

Lyrics:

I IV
I've just left my home place where I couldn't sleep
I V
For missin' a woman that I couldn't keep
I IV
She just walked out and left me for somebody else
I V I
Now her memory keeps hauntin' me when I'm by myself

So break out the bottle bring on the crowd
Tell funny stories turn the jukebox up loud
Come on sit at my table where the drinks are on me
Just gather round me cause misery loves company

Now I'm not the first one that's lost everything
To a false hearted woman with a false hearted scheme
But this is the first time I've suffered myself
Help me get over this love I'll handle the next love all by myself

Chorus

Notes:

Guitar picker, songwriter, singer and actor Jerry Reed wrote this song, which was first recorded by Porter Wagoner in 1961.

The Johnson Mountain Boys recorded this song for their 1983 album, "Working Close." The Johnson Mountain Boys could be considered a "revivalist" bluegrass band. When many bands had been pushing the boundaries of bluegrass into more "newgrass" territories, The Johnson Mountain Boys recorded songs that were much more closely tied to the traditional bluegrass songs of the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The song is sung with no harmony.

Molly and Tenbrooks

Traditional (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys)
Key of B, 134 BPM

Chords

	B	B		B	B		B	B		E	E	
	E	E		B	B		F#	F#		B	B	
	B	B		B	B		F#	F#		B	B	
	B	B										

Chords (Capo 4th Fret)

	G	G		G	G		G	G		C	C	
	C	C		G	G		D	D		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		G	G	
	G	G										

Lyrics:

I IV
Run ol' Molly run, run ol' Molly run
I V I
Tenbrooks gonna beat you to the bright shinin' sun
V I
To the bright shinin' sun O Lord to the bright shinin' sun

Tenbrooks was a big bay horse he wore that shaggy mane
He run all around Memphis he beat the Memphis train
Beat the Memphis train O Lord beat the Memphis train

Tenbrooks said to Molly what made your head so red?
Runnin' in the hot sun puts a fever in my head
Fever in my head O Lord fever in my head

Molly said to Tenbrooks you're lookin' mighty squirrel
Tenbrooks said to Molly I'm a-leavin' this old world
Leavin' this old world O Lord leavin' this old world

Out in California where Molly done as she pleased
Come back to old Kentucky got beat with all ease
Beat with all ease O Lord beat with all ease

The women all a-laughin' the children all a cryin'
Men's all a-hollerin' old Tenbrooks is flyin'
Old Tenbrooks a-flyin' O Lord old Tenbrooks is flyin'

Kyper Kyper you're not a-ridin' right
Molly's a beatin' old Tenbrooks clear out sight
Clear out of sight O Lord clear out of sight

Kyper Kyper Kyper my son
Give old Tenbrooks the bridle and let old Tenbrooks run
Let old Tenbrooks run O Lord let old Tenbrooks run

Go and catch old Tenbrooks and hitch him in the shade
We're gonna bury old Molly in a coffin ready made
Coffin ready made O Lord coffin ready made

Notes:

A fictional account of July 4, 1878 match race between Ten Broeck (a Kentucky horse) versus Mollie McCarthy (a California horse) at what is now known as Churchill Downs. It was written in the late 1800s. The Carver Boys recorded a version "Tim Brook" in 1929. It is also known as "The Racehorse Song."

Bill Monroe recorded the song on October 28, 1947, but didn't release it until 1949 (as a B-side – the A-side was "I'm Going Back to Old Kentucky"). In 1948, the Stanley Brothers recorded a version in the same style, making this the first bluegrass song released by someone other than Bill Monroe (which lead to a lengthy feud between Bill Monroe and the Stanley Brothers). Bill Monroe would record it again with Don Stover on the banjo. Country Gazette did a version on the album "Hello Operator, This is..." and J.D. Crowe, Tony Rice, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks and Todd Phillips recorded a version on "The Bluegrass Album."

This song typically has no harmony, and the singer sings two verses, followed by an instrumental break.

Mr. Engineer

Paul Williams and Jimmy Martin (ver. Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys – 1961)

Key of G 117 BPM

Chords	Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)
C D G G C D G G ⁷	G A D D G A D D ⁷
C D G G C D G G	G A D D G A D D

Lyrics:

IV V I
 Engineer reach up and pull the whistle
 IV V I
 Let me hear that lonesome sound
 For it blends with the feeling that's in me
 The one I loved has turned me down

I'm gonna catch me a freight train
 Lord I'm leaving this lonesome town
 The one I loved and gave my heart to
 That's the one has turned me down

Engineer reach up and pull the whistle
 Let me hear that lonesome sound
 For it blends with the feeling that's in me
 The one I loved has turned me down

There's sixteen cars behind each engine
 I'll ride the last one to the end of the line
 I don't know where I'm going or where I'll wind up
 Just anything to ease my worried mind

Chorus

Notes:

Paul Williams, mandolin player for Jimmy Martin, likely wrote this song. Jimmy Martin shares credit, which some bandleaders did at the time. Paul was guitarist and lead singer for the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers before joining Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys in 1957. Paul married Jimmy's half sister in 1962, who told him that "he couldn't play bluegrass music and live for the Lord." So he quit the Sunny Mountain Boys to sing and play gospel music.

The song was recorded October 30, 1961 in Nashville. Paul Williams played mandolin and sang tenor. Paul Craft was the banjo player and sang baritone. Roy Husky Jr played bass, and you can hear Willie Ackerman play very soft brushes (drums). This song appears on the album "Mr Good 'N Country Music," released in 1966 (not to be confused with "Good 'N Country" which was released in 1960.).

Other notable recordings include JD Crowe and The New South in 1994 (Richard Bennett on guitar and lead vocals, Don Rigsby on mandolin and tenor). Tony Rice also sings a version on his self-titled album from 1977 (JD Crowe on banjo, Larry Rice on mandolin and tenor vocals, Richard Greene on fiddle, Jerry Douglas on dobro and Todd Phillips on bass).

My Cabin in Caroline

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1950)

Key of Ab, 109 BPM

Chords

Verse

Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Db Db	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Db Db	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Ab Ab	Ab Ab

Chorus

Db Db	Db Db	Ab Ab	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Db Db	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Ab Ab	Ab Ab

Chords (Capo 1st Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	G G	D D	D D
G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Chorus

C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	G G	D D	D D
G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I IV I

There's a cabin in the pines in the hills of Caroline

V

And a blue-eyed girl is waiting there for me

I IV I

I'll be going back someday, and from her I'll never stray

V I

In the cabin in the hills of Caroline

IV I

Oh the cabin in the shadow of the pine

V

And the blue-eyed girl way down in Caroline

I IV I

Someday she'll be my wife, and we'll live a happy life

V I

In the cabin in the hills of Caroline

I'm packing my grip for that long, long trip
 Back to the hills of Caroline
 I want to see that blue-eyed girl, she's the sweetest in the world
 And the cabin in the hills of Caroline

Chorus

And when it's late at night and the moon is shining bright
 And the whippoorwill is calling from the hill
 Then I'll tell her of my love, written in the stars above
 How I love her now and I know I always will

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs in 1948. It is sometimes credited as "Cabin in Caroline."

This song was recorded by Flatt and Scruggs in November, 1948 and was released in 1949 as the B-side (the A-side was "We'll Meet Again Sweetheart"). This was one of the first four songs recorded for Mercury Records after Lester and Earl left Bill Monroe. Jim Shumate played fiddle and Howard Watts (Cedric Rainwater) played upright bass – there was no mandolin player. Mac Wiseman was at this recording session singing harmonies on the other three songs they recorded, but he did not sing harmony on this song. Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so their instruments were tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So while this song is in the key of G#, they would have been playing in G positions.

This is a classic "jam" song. Originally it was recorded with no harmony. However, most people sing the chorus as a duet or trio, with the third line being sung solo.

My Little Georgia Rose

Bill Monroe (ver. Bill Monroe, 1950)

Key of B, 106 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
B B B E B B B B	G G G C G G G G
B B B B F# F# F# F#	G G G G D D D D
B B B E B B B B	G G G C G G G G
B B F# F# B B B B	G G D D G G G G
Chorus	Chorus
E E E E B B B B	C C C C G G G G
B B B B F# F# F# F#	G G G G D D D D
B B B B E E E E	G G G G C C C C
B B F# F# B B B B	G G D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I
 Now come and listen to my story
 V
 A story that I know is true
 I
 A little rose who bloomed in Georgia
 V I
 With hair of gold and a heart so true

 IV I
 Way down in the blue ridge mountains
 V
 Way down where the tall pines grow
 I IV
 Lives my sweetheart of the mountains
 I V I
 She's my little Georgia rose

 Her mother left her with another
 A carefree life she had planned
 The baby now is a lady
 The one her mother couldn't stand

Chorus

We often sing love songs together
 I watched her do her little part
 She smiled at me when I would tell her
 That she was my sweetheart

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Bill Monroe in the late 40s. The song is autobiographical about his child born out of wedlock with Bessie Lee Maudlin. Bessie first met Bill Monroe in 1938 and would be his bass player (and harmony singer) from 1953 to 1964. Bessie had the child in secret in Georgia and left the child with friends (left for adoption). When "Georgia Rose" was older, she would sometimes go on tour with Monroe. "Georgia Rose" never publicly identified herself and died on July 24, 1998.

The song was first recorded by Bill Monroe February 3, 1950 with Jimmy Martin on guitar, Rudy Lyle on banjo, Vassar Clements on fiddle and Joel Price on upright bass. It was re-recorded on June 26, 1954 with Jim Smoak on banjo, Edd Mayfield on guitar, and Ernie Newton on upright bass and featuring triple fiddle, with Charlie Cline, Gordon Terry and Red Taylor. The Seldom Scene also recorded this song and released it on their 1973 album "Act 3." David Grisman released a version on the 1988 album "Home is Where the Heart Is."

Originally this was recorded with no harmony. Most bands perform this song with harmony.

My Little Girl in Tennessee

Lester Flatt (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1949)

Key of Ab, 137 BPM

Chords

Verse

Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Db Db	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Db Db	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Ab Ab	Ab Ab

Chorus

Db Db	Db Db	Ab Ab	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Eb Eb
Ab Ab	Ab Ab	Db Db	Ab Ab
Ab Ab	Eb Eb	Ab Ab	Ab Ab

Chords (Capo 1st Fret)

Verse

G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	G G	D D	D D
G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Chorus

C C	C C	G G	G G
G G	G G	D D	D D
G G	G G	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

IV I
 Oh the little girl of mine in Tennessee
 V
 I know she's waiting there for me
 I IV I
 Someday I'll settle down in that little country town
 V I
 With that little girl of mine in Tennessee
 I IV I
 Oh, a long long time ago when I left my home to roam
 V
 Down in the hills of Tennessee
 I IV I
 The sweetest little girl that was ever in this world
 V I
 Down in the hills of Tennessee

Chorus

Oh, she begged me not to go you'll be sorry, dear, I know
 For the way that you were treating me
 So I rambled all around and nothing could be found
 To take the place of her in Tennessee

Chorus

Oh, someday I'll wander back to that little cabin shack
 Little girl that's waiting there for me
 I can see her smiling face waiting for me at the gate
 Oh that little girl of mine in Tennessee

Chorus

Notes:

A classic bluegrass song written by Lester Flatt.

Recorded December 11, 1949, it was released as a B-side (the A-side was "I'll Never Love Another." Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so Earls' banjo was tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So to play along with the original recording, a capo is required on the first fret or you need to retune. The Osborne Brothers did a version on their 1973 album "Yesterday, Today, and the Osborne Brothers." Terry Baucom, Lou Reid and Carolina did a version on their 1993 album, "Carolina Moon." More recently, Chris Thile and Michael Daves released a version on their 2011 album "Sleep With One Eye Open."

Typically the chorus is sung as a duet.

My Old Kentucky Home

Stephen Foster

Key of E

<u>Chords</u>												<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>													
	E	E		E	E		A	A		E	E			C	C		C	C		F	F		C	C	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		B	B			C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	E	E		E	E		A	A		E	E			C	C		C	C		F	F		C	C	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		E	E			C	C		C	C		G	G		C	C	
	E	E												C	C										

Lyrics:

I IV I

Oh the sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home

V

It's summer, the people are gay

I IV I

The corn top's ripe and the meadow's in bloom

V I

While the birds make music all day

Weep no more my lady
 Oh weep no more today
 I'll sing you a song for my old Kentucky home
 My old Kentucky home far away

The young folks roll on the little cabin floor
 All merry, all happy and bright
 But by hard times come-a-knocking at the door
 Then my old Kentucky home good night

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Stephen Foster after being inspired by the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Originally it was titled "Poor Uncle Tom, Good Night" in Foster's sketchbook. It was changed to "My Old Kentucky Home Good Night" and over time has been shortened to the title we know today. This anti-slavery song was written in 1852 and quickly grew in popularity. During the American Civil War, soldiers passed this song all through the United States. It has been recorded countless times by artists from multiple genres. It is sung every year at the Kentucky Derby, and in 1928 became Kentucky state's official song.

As bluegrass has its roots in Kentucky, this was a song that resonated with many bluegrass bands have sung and recorded this song. Most famously, Vern Williams and Ray Park used to play this song regularly.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

My Walking Shoes

Jimmy Martin and Paul Williams (ver. Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys, 1960)
Key of B, 130 BPM

Chords

	B	B		B	B		B	B		B	B	
	B	B		B	B		F#	F#		F#	F#	
	B	B		B	B		E	E		E	E	
	B	B		F#	F#		B	B		B	B	

Chords (Capo 4th Fret)

	G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I
My walking shoes don't fit me anymore
V
My walking shoes don't fit me anymore
I IV I
Stay on your side of town, honey I won't be around
V I
My walking shoes don't fit me anymore
I
It's a long way from here to over yonder
V
My feet they're getting mighty sore
I IV
I ain't coming back you've made your mind to wander
I V I
My walking shoes don't fit me anymore

Chorus

I'll be a long time gone from you baby
You'll never hear me knock upon your door
I thought you were worth it once but I was crazy
My walking shoes don't fit me anymore

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Paul Williams was the guitarist and lead singer for the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers before joining Jimmy Martin in 1957. Paul on mandolin co-wrote a number of songs with Jimmy Martin, including "Hold Watcha Got" and this song, "My Walking Shoes."

Recorded by Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys in August of 1960 and released on the album "Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys sing Widow Maker," but is more famously known from the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's album "Will the Circle Be Unbroken." Another notable recording is the album "Here Today," by David Grisman, Emery Gord Jr., Herb Pedersen, Jim Buchanan and Vince Gill.

Originally sung with the chorus in three-part harmony.

Nellie Kane

Tim O'Brien (ver. Hot Rize, 1979)

Key of E, 122 BPM

Chords

Verse

```
| E E | E E | E E | E E |
| E E | E E | E E | C#m C#m |
| B B | E E | E E |
```

Chorus

```
| A A | A A | E E | E E |
| B B | B B | E E | E E |
| A A | A A | E E | E E |
| B B | B B | E E | E E |
```

Chords

Verse

```
| C C | C C | C C | C C |
| C C | C C | C C | Am Am |
| G G | C C | C C |
```

Chorus

```
| F F | F F | C C | C C |
| G G | G G | C C | C C |
| F F | F F | C C | C C |
| G G | G G | C C | C C |
```

Lyrics:

I
As a young man I went riding out on the western plain

Vim

In the state of North Dakota I met my Nellie Kane
V I
I met my Nellie Kane

She was living in a lonely cabin with a son by another man
Five years she had waited for him as long as a woman can
As long as a woman can

IV I

I don't know what changed my mind

V I

"Til then I was the rambling kind

IV I

The kind of love I can't explain

V I

That I had for Nellie Kane

She took me on to work that day to help her till the land
In the afternoon we planted seeds in the evening we held hands
In the evening we held hands

Her blue eyes told me everything a man could want to know
And it was then I realized I would never go
I would never go

Chorus

Now many years have gone by and her son has grown up tall
I became a father to him and she became my all
She became my all

Chorus

Notes:

Tim O'Brien was born in West Virginia, dropped out of Colby College in 1973 to pursue music professionally. He moved to Boulder Colorado, and met Pete Wernick (New York City), Charles Sawtelle (Austin) and Nick Forster (Beirut, but raised in upstate New York), and formed Hot Rize in 1978. This band made a huge impact on the bluegrass scene in Colorado that is still seen to this day.

Recorded
January/February 1979
and released on Hot Rize's first album (which was self titled). The jam band Phish regularly sings this song at their live performances, and it is on their album "Hampton Comes Alive" from 1999. The chorus is sung as a duet.

Nine Pound Hammer

Merle Travis (ver. Tony Rice, 1979)
Key of A, 120 BPM

	<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse	Verse
A A A A D D D D	G G G G C C C C	G G G G C C C C
A A E E A A A A	G G D D G G G G	G G D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I IV

Well the nine pound hammer, is a little too heavy

I V I

It's for my size, honey for my size

Well roll on buddy, don't you roll so slow
How can I roll, when the wheels won't go

It's a long way to Harlan, and a long way to Hazard
Just to get a little brew, just to get a little brew

Chorus

Well it ain't one hammer, that's in this tunnel
That'll ring like mine, that'll ring like mine

Chorus

I'm goin' on a mountain, yeah to see my baby
And I ain't comin' back, no I ain't comin' back

Now roll on buddy, pull a load of coal
How can I pull, when the wheels won't roll?

Well the nine pound hammer, is a little too heavy
It's for my size, honey for my size

Chorus

Notes:

Traced back, this song is a prison, logging and railroad song that shares verses with "Take This Hammer," "Swannanoa Tunnel" and "Asheville Junction." Versions have been recorded by Mississippi John Hurt, Lead Belly, and a number of prisoner recordings by John and Alan Lomax as part of the folk recordings for the Library of Congress.

In 1946, Merle Travis recorded a fingerpicked version that would better solidify some of the lyrics. Versions have been recorded by Osborne Brothers, Jim and Jesse McReynolds and, of course, Bill Monroe ("Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys – Bluegrass Ramble," released in 1962).

This version is Tony Rice's version from the album "Manzanita" released in 1979. On this version, there is three-part harmony on the chorus. Sometimes the harmony is done as a "round" on verses.

Ocean of Diamonds

Clifford Carnahan (ver. Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys, 1958)

Key of F, 170 BPM, $\frac{3}{4}$

Chords

Verse

	F		F		F ⁷		B $\flat$		B $\flat$		B $\flat$		B $\flat$	
	C		C		C		F		F		F		F	
	F		F		F ⁷		B $\flat$		B $\flat$		B $\flat$		B $\flat$	
	C		C		C		F		F		F		F	

Chorus

	B $\flat$		B $\flat$		B $\flat$		F		F		F		F	
	C		C		C		F		F		F		F	
	F		F		F ⁷		B $\flat$		B $\flat$		B $\flat$		B $\flat$	
	C		C		C		F		F		F		F	

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

	D		D		D ⁷		G		G		G		G	
	A		A		A		D		D		D		D	
	D		D		D ⁷		G		G		G		G	
	A		A		A		D		D		D		D	

Chorus

	G		G		G		D		D		D		D	
	A		A		A		D		D		D		D	
	D		D		D ⁷		G		G		G		G	
	A		A		A		D		D		D		D	

Lyrics:

I IV
 Some people drink champagne out under the stars
 V I
 While others drink wine leaning over a bar
 IV
 But all that I need dear to make me feel fine
 V I
 Is to know that your love will forever be mine
 IV I
 I give a ocean of diamonds a world filled with flowers
 V I
 To hold you closely for just a few hours
 IV
 Hear you whisper softly that you love me too
 V I
 Would change all the dark clouds to the bluest of blue
 I don't drink their champagne and I don't drink their wine
 So if you refuse me, my poor heart will pine
 I'll be so lonely till the day that I die
 And as long as I live dear, you'll still hear me cry

Chorus

Notes:

Clifford Carnahan was a fiddler and songwriter, writing more than 200 songs. However, he never wrote any of them down, but was able to recite them from memory.

Originally recorded in April of 1958 as the B-side to "Sophronie..". A live recording can be found on the album "Don't Cry to Me - Songs from the Film 'King of Bluegrass.'" Another notable recording is JD Crowe, Tony Rice, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks and Todd Phillips - The Bluegrass Album.

The original recording used a snare drum to further accent the mandolin chop on the off-beats.

Originally sung in three-part harmony on the chorus.

Old Home Place

Mitch Jayne and Dean Webb (ver. J.D. Crowe and The New South, 1975)

Key of Bb, 121 BPM

Chords

Verse

Bb Bb	D⁷ D⁷	Eb Eb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	Bb Bb	F F	F F
Bb Bb	D⁷ D⁷	Eb Eb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chorus

F F	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb
C⁷ C⁷	C⁷ C⁷	F F	F F
Bb Bb	D⁷ D⁷	Eb Eb	Bb Bb
Bb Bb	F F	Bb Bb	Bb Bb

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

Verse

G G	B⁷ B⁷	C C	G G
G G	G G	D D	D D
G G	B⁷ B⁷	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Chorus

D D	D D	G G	G G
A⁷ A⁷	A⁷ A⁷	D D	D D
G G	B⁷ B⁷	C C	G G
G G	D D	G G	G G

Lyrics:

I III IV I
 It's been ten long years since I left my home
 V
 In the hollow where I was born
 I III IV I
 Where the cool fall nights make the wood smoke rise
 V I
 And the foxhunter blows his horn
 I fell in love with a girl from the town
 I thought that she would be true
 I ran away to Charlottesville
 And worked in a sawmill too
 V I
 What have they done to the old home place
 II V
 Why did they tear it down
 I III IV I
 And why did I leave the plow in the field
 V I
 And look for a job in the town
 Well the girl ran off with somebody else
 The tariffs took all my pay
 And here I stand where the old home stood
 Before they took it away
 Now the geese fly south and the cold wind moans
 As I stand here and hang my head
 I've lost my love I've lost my home
 And now I wish that I was dead

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Originally recorded by The Dillard's on their first Elektra album in 1963, "Back Porch Bluegrass." It was written by the bass player, Mitch Jayne, and the mandolin player, Dean Webb. Arguably, the more notable recording is by J.D. Crowe & The New South in 1975 on the self-titled album "J.D. Crowe & The New South," also called "The Brown Album" or Rounder 0044 (after the label's catalog number).

Old Salty Dog Blues

Wiley and Zeke Morris (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1950)

Key of A $\flat$, 124 BPM

Chords

| A $\flat$ A $\flat$ | F 7 F 7 | B $\flat$ B $\flat$ | B $\flat$ B $\flat$ |
 | E $\flat$ E $\flat$ | E $\flat$ E $\flat$ | A $\flat$ A $\flat$ | A $\flat$ A $\flat$ |

Chords (Capo 1st Fret)

| G G | E 7 E 7 | A 7 A 7 | A 7 A 7 |
 | D D | D D | G G | G G |

Lyrics:

I VI
 Standin' on the corner with the low down blues

II
 A great big hole in the bottom of my shoes

V I
 Honey let me be your salty dog

Let me be your salty dog
 Or I won't be your man at all
 Honey let me be your salty dog

Looking here Sal, I know you
 Run down stockin' and a worn out shoe
 Honey let me be your salty dog

Chorus

Down in the wildwood sitting on a log
 Finger on the trigger and an eye on the hog
 Honey let me be your salty dog

Chorus

Pulled the trigger and the gun said go
 The shot fell over in Mexico
 Honey let me be you salty dog

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Considered to have been written sometime around the 1900s, this song has been covered by jazz, blues and country artists as well as bluegrass. The earliest recordings credit Papa Charlie Jackson, and the song has been recorded by Mississippi John Hurt and Lead Belly, just to name a few (sometimes the lyrics are bawdry). Bluegrass versions are based largely on a Morris Brothers recording (lyrics and arrangement) from 1938. Salty Dog has been attributed to food and drinks, but the roots infer that the term "Salty Dog" refers to a sexual partner.

Recorded October 20, 1950 by Flatt and Scruggs and released as the B-side in 1952 (Pike County Breakdown was the A-side). Their instruments were tuned higher than normal, and this song is recorded in G#. This is one of the rare songs where Lester Flatt does not sing lead. Fiddle player Benny Sims sings lead on the original recording. A version sung by Lester Flatt is also on the "Flatt and Scruggs at Carnegie Hall" album, recorded in 1963 (titled "Salty Dog Blues") in the key of G.

The chorus and the last line of each verse are sung in three-part harmony.

On and On

Bill Monroe (ver. Bill Monroe, 1954)

Key of G, 105 BPM

Chords										Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)									
	G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G								
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D			D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		G	G			D	D		D	D	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G			D	D		A	A	

Lyrics:

I IV I
Traveling down this long lonesome highway

V
I'm so lonesome I could cry

I IV I
Memories of how we once loved each other

And now you are saying good-bye

On and on I'll follow my darling
And I wonder where she can be
On and on I'll follow my darling
And I wonder if she ever thinks of me

I've cried I've cried for you little darling
It breaks my heart to hear your name
My friends they also loved you my darling
And they think that I am to blame

Chorus

I have to follow you little darling
I can't sleep when the sun goes down
By your side is my destination
The road is clear and that's where I'm bound

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Bill Monroe and released on the Decca label in 1956 as the A-side (the B-side was "I Believed in You Darling"). While released in 1956, it was recorded in 1954 when Jimmy Martin was still with Bill Monroe.

This song has become a bluegrass standard. Doyle Lawson recorded a version on the 1979 album "Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver." David Grisman recorded a version for his 1976 bluegrass album "The David Grisman Rounder Album." And Tony Rice did a version for his 1993 album "Tony Rice Plays and Sings Bluegrass."

The song originally was sung in three-part harmony for both verses and chorus.

Once More

Dusty Owens (ver. Osborne Brothers, 1958)

Key of D $\flat$, 68 BPM

Chords

Verse

D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
A $\flat$ A $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	G $\flat$ G $\flat$	G $\flat$ G $\flat$
D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$

Chorus

D $\flat$ D $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	G $\flat$ G $\flat$
D $\flat$ D $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$
D $\flat$ D $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	G $\flat$ G $\flat$
D $\flat$ D $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$

Chords (Capo 1st Fret)

Verse 1

C C	C C	C C	C C
G G	G G	G G	G G
C C	C C	F F	F F
C C	C G	C C	C C

Verse 2

C C	G G	C C	F F
C C	G G	C C	G G
C C	G G	C C	F F
C C	G G	C C	C C

Lyrics:

I
 Once more to be with you dear
 V
 Just for tonight to hold you tight
 I IV
 Once more I'd give a fortune
 I V I
 If I could see you once more.
 V I IV
 Forget (forget) the past (the past), this hurt can't last
 I V I V
 Oh I don't want it to keep us apart
 I V I IV
 Your love (your love) I'll crave (I crave) I'll be your slave
 I V I
 If you just give me all of your heart.

Verse 2

Verse 1

Notes:

Dusty Owens started his radio career at the age of 16 in Flint Michigan. In 1953 he began recording for Columbia as well as being a songwriter for the Acuff-Rose Publishing Company in Nashville. In addition to "Once More," Dusty wrote Hello Operator and Just Call on Me. Dusty originally recorded the song in January 1956 with Donna Darlene with the Rodeo Boys.

In 1958, the Osborne Brothers, along with Red Allen, first appeared on the country charts with this song. The song features the high lead, low baritone and the low tenor stacked below that. In 1982 the band Here Today (Herb Pedersen, Vince Gill, David Grisman, Jim Buchanan and Emory Gordy) recorded their version of Once More on their self-titled album.

The song is sung in three part harmony throughout the entire song (with a call and response on the words in brackets).

Ophelia

Robbie Robertson (ver. Gibson Brothers 2004)
Key of B, 114 BPM

<u>Chords</u>					<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>				
Verse					Verse				
B	B	B	B	D [#] D [#]	D [#] D [#]	B	B	B	B
E	E	E	E	C [#] C [#]	C [#] C [#]	C	C	A	A
E	E	E	E	F [#] F [#]	F [#] F [#]	C	C	D	D
B	B	B	B	F [#] F [#]	F [#] F [#]	G	G	D	D
Chorus					Chorus				
E	E	E	E	B	B	G	G	G	G
F [#]	F [#]	F [#]	F [#]	B	B	D	D	G	G
E	E	E	E	B	B	C	C	G	G
F [#]	F [#]	F [#]	F [#]	F [#]	F [#]	D	D	D	D

Lyrics:

I III
Boards on the window, mail by the door
VI(IV) II
What would anybody leave so quickly for
IV V I V
Ophelia, where have you gone

The old neighborhood just ain't the same
Nobody knows just what became of
Ophelia, what went wrong
IV I
Was it something that somebody said
V I
Mama, I know we broke the rules
IV I
Was somebody up against the law
V
Woman you know I'd die for you

Ashes of laughter, the ghost is clear
Why do the best things always disappear
Like Ophelia, please darken my door

Chorus

They got your number, scared and runnin'
And I'm still waiting on the second comin'
Ophelia, come back home

Notes:

The Band was originally called The Hawks, backing Canadian rockabilly singer Ronnie Hawkins from 1958 to 1963. When Bob Dylan switched from acoustic to electric, this group became Dylan's backing band for his 1966 concert tour. The group changed their name to "The Band" and recorded their debut album in 1968, titled *Music From the Pink*. In addition to hit songs like "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," "Up on Cripple Creek" and "The Weight," they were the subject of the Martin Scorsese documentary "The Last Waltz," a documentary of their 1976 farewell concert. The song Ophelia was released on their 1975 album *Northern Lights - Southern Cross*.

Ophelia has become a more recent song typically played in live recordings by various bluegrass bands, such as The Punch Brothers and The Infamous Stringdusters. The Gibson Brothers released a version on their 2004 album *Long Way Back Home*. And Bill Emerson and his son Billy released a version in 2020 as a single. NOTE: The original recording and most bands play a VI chord to start the second line of the verse. The Gibson Brothers play a more standard IV chord.

Harmony is typically on the last line of the verses and the first three lines of the chorus.

Panama Red

Peter Rowan (ver. Old & In the Way, 1975)
Key of D, 113 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse D D D D G G G G A A A A D D D D D D D D G G G G A A A A A A D D Chorus B ^m B ^m B ^m B ^m A A A A G G E E A A A A B ^m B ^m B ^m B ^m A A A A F ^{#7} F ^{#7} F ^{#7} F ^{#7} G G G G A A A A A A D D	Verse C C C C C C C C F F F F G G G G F F F F C C C C F F F G C C C C Chorus A ^m A ^m A ^m A ^m G G G G F F D D G G G G A ^m A ^m A ^m A ^m G G G G E ⁷ E ⁷ E ⁷ E ⁷ F F F F G G G G G G C C

Lyrics:

Vim. V IV II
 V
 Panama Red, Panama Red He'll steal your woman, then
 he'll rob your head
 Vim. V
 Panama Red, Panama Red
 III IV
 On his white horse, mescalito, he come breezin' through
 town
 V I
 I'll bet your woman's up in bed with ol' Panama Red
 IV
 The judge don't know when red's in town he keeps well hidden
 underground
 V I
 But everybody's acting lazy falling out and hangin' 'round
 My woman said, "hey pedro you're actin' crazy like a clown"
 Nobody feels like working Panama Red is back in town

Chorus

Everybody's looking out for him 'Cause they know red's satisfies
 Little girls love to listen to him sing and tell sweet lies
 But when things get too confusing, honey you're better off in bed
 And I'll be searching all the joints in town for Panama Red

Chorus

Notes:

In college, Peter Rowan discovered bluegrass hearing the music of The Country Gentlemen and The Stanley Brothers. With the help of Bill Keith, Peter was invited to Nashville to audition for Bill Monroe. Peter would sing lead and co-write songs with Bill Monroe from 1963 to 1967. The song "Panama Red" was recorded by country-rock band New Riders of the Purple Sage and released on the 1973 album The Adventures of Panama Red. Panama Red was a particularly strong strain of marijuana at the time.

In 1973, Peter Rowan formed the bluegrass band Old & In the Way, including Vassar Clements on fiddle, Jerry Garcia on banjo, David Grisman on mandolin and John Kahn on upright bass. They recorded an album in 1975 and the album would become one of the best selling bluegrass albums of all time, introducing many Grateful Dead fans to the world of bluegrass. In addition to traditional bluegrass songs, this album also included Rowan's song, Panama Red.

The song features three-part harmony on the first two lines of the chorus.

Red Clay Halo

David Rawlings and Gillian Welch (ver. Nashville Bluegrass Band, 1998)

Key of C, 130 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
C C C C C C C C	G G G G G G G G
C C C C G G G G	G G G G D D D D
C C C C C C C C	G G G G G G G G
C C G G C C C C	G G D D G G G G
Chorus	Chorus
F F F F C C C C	C C C C G G G G
G G G G C C C C	D D D D G G G G
F F F F C C C C	C C C C G G G G
G G G G C C C C	D D D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I
Well the girls all dance with the boys from the city
V
But they don't care to dance with me
I
Well it ain't my fault that the fields are muddy
V I
And the red clay stains my feet
It's under my nails and it's under my collar
And it shows on my Sunday clothes
Though I do my best with the soap and the water
That damned old dirt won't go
IV I
But when I pass through the pearly gates
V I
My gown be gold instead
IV I
Or just a red clay robe with the red clay wings
V I
And a red clay halo for my head
It's mud in the spring and it's dust in the summer
And it rolls in a crimson tide
And the trees and the leaves and the cows are the color
Of the dirt on the mountainside

Chorus

Now Jordan's banks are red and muddy
And the rolling water is wide
But I got no boat, so I'll be good and muddy
When I get to the other side

Chorus

I'll take the red clay robe and the red clay wings
And a red clay halo for my head

Notes:

Written by Gillian Welch. Gillian was going to college in Santa Cruz, playing bass in a Goth band and drums in a psychedelic surf band, when her roommate played her an album by The Stanley Brothers. From that point on, her musical focus shifted considerably. After finishing a degree in photography, Welch attended Berklee College of Music in Boston. While there she met her musical partner David Rawlings at an audition for Berklee's only country band. Gillian and David released their first album in 1996, *Revival*, which was produced by T-Bone Burnett. "Red Clay Halo" was released on the 2001 album, *Time (the Revelator)*.

Three years prior to Welch and Rawling's release, The Nashville Bluegrass Band released their version of Red Clay Halo on the album "American Beauty." The Nashville Bluegrass Band was originally a group of established, session musicians that joined to be a backing band for Vernon Oxford and Minnie Pearl. Bela Fleck produced their first album, "My Native Home" in 1985. They incorporated spirituals and black gospel with bluegrass, which significantly influenced bluegrass bands through the late 80s and 90s.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

Ridin' That Midnight Train

Ralph Stanley (ver. Stanley Brothers and the Clinch Mountain Boys – 1959)

Key of G, 153 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>									
	G	G		G	G		G	G			D	D		D	D		D	D	
	C	C		C	C		G	G			G	G		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		G	G			D	D		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		D	D		G	G			D	D		A	A		D	D	

Lyrics:

I IV I
No matter what I say or do you're never satisfied
V I
I've tried and tried so many times, I've leaving you now goodbye

I IV I
I'm ridin' on that midnight train my heads a hangin' low
I V I
These awful blues will follow me wherever I may go

Oh why on earth was I ever borned I'll never understand
To fall in love with a woman like you in love with another man

Chorus

You broke a heart that trusted you why wasn't it made of stone
I'm left in a world as black as night, yet I must travel on

Chorus

Notes:

This song was written by Ralph Stanley and recorded by the Stanley Brothers and the Clinch Mountain Boys in August of 1959. It was released on the album "Mountain Song Favourites."

It was also recorded by Doc Watson with his son Merle in 1986. It was also the title of the album (though modified to the more grammatically correct "Riding on the Midnight Train"). This was the last album Merle Watson recorded before being killed in a tractor accident. This album won the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Folk Album in 1987.

This song was also on the first album released by Rick Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder – the album was released in 1997, and the title was "Bluegrass Rules!"

This song is typically sung as a duet on the chorus.

Rocky Top

Boudleaux and Felice Bryant (ver. Osborne Brothers, 1967)
Key of A, 157 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>									
Verse										Verse									
A	A	A	A	D	D	A	A			G	G	G	G	C	C	G	G		
F#m	F#m	E	E	A	A	A	A			E ^m	E ^m	D	D	G	G	G	G		
A	A	A	A	D	D	A	A			G	G	G	G	C	C	G	G		
F#m	F#m	E	E	A	A	A	A			E ^m	E ^m	D	D	G	G	G	G		
Chorus										Chorus									
F#m	F#m	F#m	F#m	E	E	E	E			E ^m	E ^m	E ^m	E ^m	D	D	D	D		
G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D			F	F	F	F	C	C	C	C		
D	D	D	D	A	A	A	A			C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G		
A	A	G	G	A	A	A	A			G	G	F	F	G	G	G	G		
A	A	G	G	A	A	A	A			G	G	F	F	G	G	G	G		

Lyrics:

I IV I Vim V I
Wish that I was on ol' Rocky Top down in the Tennessee hills
Ain't no smoggy smoke on Rocky Top ain't no telephone bills

Once I had a girl on Rocky Top half bear the other half cat
Wild as a mink, but sweet as soda pop I still dream about that

Vim V VII IV
Rocky Top, you'll always be home sweet home to me
I

Good ol' Rocky Top
VII I VII I
Rocky Top, Tennessee Rocky Top, Tennessee

Once two strangers climbed ol' Rocky Top lookin' for a
moonshine still
Strangers ain't come down from Rocky Top reckon they never
will

Corn won't grow at all on Rocky Top dirt's too rocky by far
That's why all the folks on Rocky Top get their corn from a jar

Chorus

I've had years of cramped-up city life trapped like a duck in a pen
All I know is it's a pity life can't be simple again

Chorus
I VII IV I
Rocky Top, Tennesseeeeeeee

Notes:

Boudleaux and Felice Bryant were a married songwriting duo. Famously they wrote for the Everly Brothers, including songs such as "Bye Bye Love," "Wake Up Little Susie," "All I Have to Do is Dream" and many more. But they also wrote "Raining in My Heart" for Buddy Holly and this song, Rocky Top. In 1967 the Bryant's were writing slow-paced songs in Gatlinburg, Tennessee for Archie Campbell and Chet Atkins. As a diversion they decided to write a fast-paced song. This song was written in 10 minutes.

The Osborne Brothers recorded the song in November, 1967 and it was released Christmas day that same year. It sold 85,000 copies in two weeks. It has been extensively covered by country artists such as Porter Wagoner, Conway Twitty, Lynn Anderson and many, many more. It became a regular song performed on Hee Haw by Buck Owens and Roy Clark.

The song was originally sung in three-part harmony with a high lead, baritone and low tenor.

Roust-a-bout

Jake Lambert and Josh Graves (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1997)
Key of F, 96 BPM

<u>Chords</u>					<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>				
Verse					Verse				
F	F	F	B $\flat$	F	F	F	F		
C	C	C	C	F	F	F	F		
B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	F	F	F	F		
F	F	C	C	F	F	F	F		
Chorus					Chorus				
B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	F	F	F	F		
F	F	F	F	C	C	C	C		
B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	B $\flat$	F	F	F	F		
F	F	C	C	F	F	F	F		

Lyrics:

I IV I
 The fog is rolling down the river
 V I
 Dark clouds are hangin' mighty low
 IV I
 Well it's a long long way from old St. Louis
 V I
 To the Gulf of Mexico
 IV I
 Well I make my home on the Mississippi
 V
 I'm a roustabout on a Steamboat line
 IV I
 We hit the deck on a Monday morning
 V I
 But we make the docks on a Saturday night

Well I had me a girl way down in Vicksburg
 I used to stop every time I passed
 Til she made off with a riverboat gambler
 With a new silk suit and a little mustache

Chorus

Now when I die I've got one favor
 Don't lay me down in the cold cold ground
 Just take me out to the middle of the river
 And roll me over and point me south

Chorus

Notes:

Jake Lambert was a DJ in Tennessee. Josh Graves first started playing dobro in 1927. While working as an announcer for Knoxville radio station WROL, he adopted the nickname and persona "Uncle Josh." He was a Dobro player for Mac Wiseman, Molly O'Day and Wilma and Stoney Cooper. But it wasn't until he was hired by Flatt and Scruggs that he adapted a three-finger picking style to the Dobro that all bluegrass dobro players would emulate.

Flatt and Scruggs first recorded the song in February of 1967. In addition to Lester and Earl, Paul Warren on fiddle, Josh on dobro and Jake Tullock on bass, Buddy Harman played drums, Grady Martin played another rhythm guitar and Charlie McCoy played harmonica. The song has also been recorded by Larry Stephenson and the New Grass on the album "Best of Bluegrass." Blue Canyon Boys also recorded a version on their album "Next Go 'Round" in 2012.

The song is typically sung with three-part harmony on the chorus.

Roving Gambler

Traditional (ver. Country Gentlemen, 1960)
Key of B, 115 BPM

<u>Chords</u>		<u>Chords</u>	
Verse		Verse	
B B B B B B B B		G G G G G G G G	
B B B B E E B B		G G G G C C G G	
B B B B B B F# F#		G G G G G G D D	
B B B B		G G G G	

Lyrics:

I
I am a roving gambler, gambled all around
IV I
Ever I meet with a deck of cards
IV I
I lay my money down
V
Lay my money down, lay my money down
I had not been in 'Frisco many more weeks than three
I met up with a pretty little girl
She fell in love with me
Fell in love with me, fell in love with me
She took me in her parlour, she cooled me with a fan
Whispered low in her mother's ear
Love this gambling man
Love this gambling man, love this gambling man
Oh daughter oh dear daughter how can you treat me so?
Leave your dear old mother
And with the gambler go
With the gambler go, with the gambler go
My mother, oh dear mother I tell you if I can
If you ever see me coming back
I'll be with a gambling man
With the gambling man, with the gambling man
I left her in 'Frisco I wound up in Maine
I met up with a gambling man
I got in a poker game
Got in a poker game, got in a poker game
He put his money in the pot and dealt the cards around
Saw him deal from the bottom of the deck
So I shot the gambler down
Shot the gambler down, shot the gambler down
Now I'm down in prison got a number for my name
The Warden said as he locked the door
You've gambled your last game
Gambled your last game, gambled your last game

Notes:

Dating back to the 16th Century, this song was originally titled "Roving Gambler," about a happy traveller. When this song was brought over to America, "Gambler" morphed to "Gambler," creating a different main character. In the 1920s, a number of artists recorded versions of the song. In 1927, Vernon Dalhard recorded "Gambler," which would become the basis for later recordings of the song. However, verses would be added and modified through the years. Other non-bluegrass artists to record this song include The Everly Brothers, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Simon and Garfunkel, Robert Mitchum and, more recently, Norah Jones and Billie Joe Armstrong.

The New Lost City Ramblers recorded a version in 1958, but the version referenced here is a 1960 recording by The Country Gentlemen off the album "Country Songs, Old and New." The Stanley Brothers recorded a live version off their album "The Legendary Stanley Brothers Recorded Live" in 1969. Peter Rowan did a version on his 1982 album "The Walls of Time" and Larry Sparks also recorded this song in 1982 on the album "Dark Hollow" (and rereleased on a 1989 album "Classic Bluegrass"). More recently, Dierks Bentley did a version with the Punch Brothers on the 2010 album "Up On the Ridge."

Typically the last repeated line of each verse is sung in three-part harmony.

Shady Grove (Major)

Traditional (ver. Bill Monroe – 1961)
Key of C, 158 BPM

Chords (major)

Verse

| C C | C C | C C | C C |
| C C | C C | G G | C C |

Chords (Doc Watson minor version)

Verse

| A^m A^m | G G | A^m A^m | A^m A^m |
| C C | G G | E^{m7} E^{m7} | A^m A^m |

Lyrics:

I
Coffee grows on the white oak trees

The river flows with brandy

The rocks on the hills all covered with the gold
V I
And the girls are sweeter than candy

Shady Grove
, my little miss
Shady Grove, my darling
Shady Grove, my little miss
I'm going back to Harlan

I guess you think, my pretty little miss
I can't live without you
I'll let you know before I go
I care but little about you

Chorus

Every time I go up the road
Always dark and cloudy
Every time I see that girl
I always tell her howdy

Chorus

Notes:

Derived from "Matty Groves," a traditional ballad from either England or Scotland – the roots of this song dates back to at least the early 1600s. This song travelled to the southern Appalachians around the time of the American Civil War. Sometimes "Shady Grove" is a location, sometimes it's a girl. Sometimes it's a love song, sometimes a lament.

This song bridges the gap between "old time" and "bluegrass." Typically, the song is done in the minor key (famously recorded by Doc Watson and Clarence Ashley on the "Original Folkways Recordings: 1960-1962." It was also recorded in this minor key by Tony Rice, Jerry Garcia and David Grisman on "The Pizza Tapes" in 1993.

However, Bill Monroe recorded this song in the major key in 1961. Multiple bands have recorded it, from Doyle Lawson to the Kentucky Colonels to Hot Rize – typically played very fast with three-part harmony on the chorus.

Shady Grove

Traditional (ver. Jerry Garcia, Tony Rice and David Grisman, 1993)
Key of Dm, 111 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse D ^m D ^m C C D ^m D ^m D ^m D ^m D ^m D ^m C C C C D ^m D ^m	Verse A ^m A ^m G G A ^m A ^m A ^m A ^m A ^m A ^m G G E ^{m7} E ^{m7} A ^m A ^m

Lyrics:

Im VII Im
 Peaches in the summertime, apples in the fall
 VII Im
 If I can't get the girl I love, I won't have none at all

Shady Grove, my little love – Shady Grove, I know
 Shady Grove, my little love, I'm bound for Shady Grove

I wish I had a banjo string made of golden twine
 Every tune I'd pick on it, I'd wish that girl was mine

Chorus

Some come here to fiddle and dance, some come here to tarry
 Some come here to fiddle and dance – I come here to marry

Chorus

Every night when I go home, my wife I try to please her
 The more I try the worse she gets, damned if I don't leave her

Shady Grove, my little love, Shady Grove my darlin'
 Shady Grove, my little love, I'm going back to Harlan

Every night when I go home, my wife I try to please her
 The more I try the worse she gets, damned if I don't leave her

Chorus

Fly around my pretty little miss, fly around my daisy
 Fly around my pretty little miss, nearly drive me crazy

Chorus

She's No Angel

Wanda Ballman and J.W. Arnold (ver. The Osborne Brothers, 1957)
Key of E, 120 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>									
Verse										Verse									
E	E	E	E	E	E	B	B			C	C	C	C	C	C	G	G		
B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B			G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		
E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E			C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		
E	E	A	A	A	A	B	B			C	C	F	F	F	F	G	G		
B	B	B	B	E	E	E!	-			G	G	G	G	C	C	C!	-		
Chorus										Chorus									
A	A	A	A	A	A	E	E			F	F	F	F	F	F	C	C		
E	E	B	B	B	B	B	B			C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G		
E	E	E	E	A	A	A	A			C	C	C	C	F	F	F	F		
A	A	E	E	E	E	B	B			F	F	C	C	C	C	G	G		
B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E			G	G	G	G	C	C	C	C		

Lyrics:

I V
You see her there at the bar cross the room

I
She looks like an angel with her paint and perfume

IV
You'd like to meet her your conscience says no

V I
Obey your conscience turn around boy and go

IV I
She's no angel, no angel, her wings are not real

V I
She'll ruin your life if your heart she can steal

IV I
She'll tell you tales to bring tear to your eyes

V I
But don't you believe them for they're only lies

You think if only she could be your own
You'd be more contented than a king on his throne
You'd better not trust her it's wrong if you do
She's broken many hearts and she'll break yours too

Chorus twice

Notes:

She's No Angel was written by songwriter Wanda Ballman in 1957, and was recorded and released the same year by country music legend Kitty Wells. Kitty sung the song in $\frac{3}{4}$ (waltz) time.

Later that same year, The Osborne Brothers recorded their version of She's No Angel, along with Red Allen. While the trio of Bobby, Sonny and Red didn't last very long, their three-part harmony singing would have a major impact on bluegrass music. And their $\frac{4}{4}$, sped up version of the song would become the standard for the majority of future recordings.

The country-rock band New Riders of the Purple Sage would record a version of the song in 1972, cementing the sped up, $\frac{4}{4}$ version. Other bluegrass versions include Summer Wages album "Can't Stop Now," released in 1987 (and featuring a young Jim Mills on banjo), Red Allen recording another version on the album "Bluegrass Reunion" with David Grisman, Herb Pedersen, Jim Buchanan, Jim Kerwin and Jerry Garcia in 1992 and Frank Wakefield and The Good Old Boys on the album "She's No Angel, also in 1992.

The Osborne Brothers sang this song as a duet, with Bobby Osborne singing harmony above Red Allen's lead. Almost all other versions of the song feature three-part harmony on the chorus.

Sittin' Alone in the Moonlight

Bill Monroe (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1957)
Key of A, 112 BPM

Chords	Chords (Capo 2 nd Fret)
Verse	Verse
A G [#] A A D E A A	G F [#] G G C D G G
A G [#] A A D E A A	G F [#] G G C D G G
Chorus	Chorus
D E G G D E A A ⁷	C D G G C D G G ⁷
D E G G D E A A	C D G G C D G G

Lyrics:

I bVIII I
Sittin' alone in the moonlight
IV V I
Thinking of the days gone by
I BVIII I
Wondering about my darlin
IV V I
I can still hear her saying goodbye
IV V I
Oh the moon grows pale as I sit here
IV V I
Each little star seemed to whisper and sing
IV V I
Your sweetheart has found another
IV V I
And now she is far far away

Notes:

One of the classic "one verse-one chorus" songs. It was first recorded by Bill Monroe & His Blue Grass Boys in January of 1954. It features Charlie Cline on fiddle, Rudy Lyle on banjo, Jimmy Martin on guitar and lead vocals with, of course, Bill Monroe on mandolin and tenor vocals. Ernie Newton played upright bass.

A very good example of the "high lonesome" sound that Jimmy Martin and Bill Monroe were able to produce. The song was performed live by the Muleskinner band. Peter Rowan, David Grisman, Bill Keith Clarence White, Richard Green and John Kahn were supposed to be the backup band for a Bill Monroe performance on television. Bill Monroe's bus broke down, so the band played the television show without Bill. They recorded this song and Maria Muldair joined them, adding a "high baritone" part.

The Bluegrass Album Band recorded this song in 1982 on their second album, Volume Two.

Other recordings include Peter Rowan in 1985 on his album "The First Whipporwill." Tim O'Brien and his sister Mollie recorded the song for the Bill Monroe tribute album "True Life Blues – The Songs of Bill Monroe" released 1996. And more recently, Midnight Skyracer covered the song on their 2018 album "Fire."

The song was originally recorded as a duet. The song is also sung as a trio. Harmony is throughout the entire song.

Some Old Day

Jack Rouse (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1955)

Key of G 77 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
G G G G C C G G	D D D D G G D D
G G A ⁷ A ⁷ D D D D	D D E ⁷ E ⁷ A A A A
G G G G C C G G	D D D D G G D D
G G A ⁷ D G G G G	D D E ⁷ A D D D D
Chorus	Chorus
C C C C C C G G G G	G G G G G G D D D D
G G A ⁷ A ⁷ D D D D	D D E ⁷ E ⁷ A A A A
G G G ⁷ G ⁷ C C G G	D D D ⁷ D ⁷ G G D D
G G A ⁷ D G G G G	D D E ⁷ A D D D D

Lyrics:

I
I've been workin' all in the rain
IV I
Tied to the dirty old ball and chain
II V
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day
I
Some sweet day they'll turn me loose
IV I
From this dirty old calaboose
II IV I
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day
IV
Some old day
I
You'll wait for me and pray
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day
Some sweet day they'll turn me loose
From this dirty old calaboose
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day

Oh dear mother I've hurt you so
I've been cruel to you I know
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day
Tell my brother My sister and dad
Tell the dear friends that I've had
Oh dear mother I'll come home some old day

Chorus

Notes:

Louise Certain and Gladys Stacey were the maiden names of Lester and Earl's wives and were used as pseudonyms by Flatt and Scruggs. This song is credited to Certain and Stacey, but it was written by Jack Rouse and recorded by the Rouse Brothers in 1939. Jack's brother, Ervin, wrote the words (but not the tune) to Orange Blossom Special.

This song was recorded by Lester and Earl on September 2, 1955 at Owen Bradley's studio in Nashville. In addition to Lester and Earl at the recording session was Josh Graves on dobro, Curly Seckler on mandolin and tenor vocals, Paul Warren on fiddle and Ernie Newton on upright bass. Jack Shook provided a second rhythm guitar.

This song has since been recorded by a number of bluegrass artists, including J.D. Crowe and the New South on the "brown album," also known as "Rounder 0044" in 1975.

Originally the song was recorded as a duet on the chorus. The New South recorded the chorus as a trio.

Somebody Loves You Darling

Wiley Morris and Zeke Morris (ver. Jim and Jesse McReynolds, 1963)
Key of D, 134 BPM

Chords

Chorus

| G | G | D | D | C | D | G | G |
| G | G | D | D | C | D | G | G |

Verse

| D | D | A | A | G | A | D | D |
| D | D | A | A | G | A | D | D |

Chords

Chorus

| G | G | D | D | C | D | G | G |
| G | G | D | D | C | D | G | G |

Verse

| D | D | A | A | G | A | D | D |
| D | D | A | A | G | A | D | D |

Lyrics:

IV I
Somebody loves you darling
VII I IV
Somebody loves you I know
I
Somebody loves you dearly
VII I IV
Why did you let them go

I V
I see the postman coming
IV V I
He's coming down the street
V
And I know he's got a letter
IV V I
For he's headed straight for me

Chorus

There's going to be a wedding
It's going to be in the fall
So boys and girls get ready
I'm going to invite you all

Chorus

Notes:

The Morris Brothers were a popular brother duet group through the 30s, recording for RCA Victor. They played with J.E. Mainer (and Wade Mainer) in the Crazy Mountaineers and also played with fiddle player Homer Sherrill. They are best known for their recording of "Salty Dog Blues." Zeke Morris also played with Charlie Monroe when Bill left Charlie. Somebody Loves You Darling was the B-side to the 1945 recording of Salty Dog Blues.

Jim and Jesse McReynolds recorded this in 1963 on their album "Bluegrass Special." Allen Shelton is on banjo, Jim Buchanan is on fiddle and Dave Sutherland is playing bass. This song is also on the 1972 Stanley Brothers album "Together for the Last Time," from a live performance recorded at the 1966 Bean Blossom Festival (with three verses that are different from this version). Another significant recording is by Frank Wakefield, Red Allen, Pete Kuykendall and Tom Morgan, recorded live in 1963 at the radio station WDON ("The WDON Recordings 1963).

Jim and Jesse sung the chorus as a duet. Many will sing it in three-part harmony. NOTE: Jim and Jesse also do a key change for the chorus. Most recordings don't do the key change, keeping the chord progression the same through verses and choruses.

Somehow Tonight

Earl Scruggs (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1951)

Key of G 118 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>									
	G	G		G	G		G	G			D	D		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		G	G			D	D		D	D		A	A	
	D	D		G	G		G	G			A	A		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		G	G			D	D		D	D		A	A	
	G	G		G	G						D	D		D	D				

Lyrics:

I
 Somehow tonight I feel lonely, my darlin'
 V
 Somehow tonight I feel blue
 I
 Somehow tonight these tears of mine keep falling
 V I
 Come back, sweetheart and be true

I thought your love was something I could treasure
 To brighten my pathway through the years
 All I can see is darkness in the future
 That's why I long to have you near

Chorus

I never knew what loneliness meant, darlin'
 Until I watched you walk away
 I long to hear you whisper that you love me
 I can't forget our happy days

Chorus

Notes:

A rarity from the Flatt and Scruggs catalog in that it was written by Earl Scruggs and not Lester Flatt. In fact, it was the first vocal song solely credited to Earl Scruggs.

Flatt and Scruggs recorded this song May 9, 1951 in Castle Studio at the Tulane Hotel. It was the B-side (the A-side was "Jimmy Brown the Newsboy." This recording features Everett Lilly, a mandolin player and singer that played with his brother Bea as The Lilly Brothers. Everett was only with Flatt and Scruggs from 1951 to 1952, at which point Tex Logan convinced the brothers to reunite. Eventually the brothers would move to Boston and have a huge impact on the bluegrass community in the New England area.

This song has been recorded by Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers in 1979 on the album "Kinda Lonesome." The Osborne Brothers recorded a version in 1984 on their album "Some Things I Want to Sing About." JD Crowe has recorded it two times – on the album "Ramblin' Boy" with JD Crowe and the Kentucky Mountain Boys in 1971. This album was re-released as "Blackjack" in 1978. He also recorded a version with The Bluegrass Album Band on their album "The Bluegrass Album Band Volume Four" in 1985. Both times Doyle Lawson played mandolin. In 1971, Larry Rice played guitar – and in 1985, Tony Rice played guitar. Ricky Skaggs also recorded a version in 1997 on the album "Bluegrass Rules!"

The chorus was originally sung as a duet, with Everett Lilly singing tenor to Lester's lead. However, it is also sung as a trio on the chorus.

Sophronie

Alton Delmore and D.C. Mullins (ver. Jimmy Martin, 1958)
Key of B, 133 BPM

<u>Chords</u>		<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>	
Verse		Verse	
B B B B E E E E		G G G G C C C C	
F# F# F# F# B B B B		D D D D G G G G	
B B B B E E E E		G G G G C C C C	
F# F# F# F# B B B B		D D D D G G G G	

Lyrics:

I IV
Love em and leave em, kiss em and grieve em
V I
That used to be my motto so high
I IV
Till my Sophronie left me so lonely
V I
And now there's a teardrop in my eye

My Sophronie's from Kentucky, she's found another man
I can't even kiss her, can't even hold her hand
The moon we used to love beneath is still up in the sky
So now I'm just a hotshot with a teardrop in my eye

Chorus

Till Gabriel blows his bugle, I'll be a lovin that sweet girl
She means more to me than the whole wide world
I used to be a killer with the women me oh, my
But now I'm just a hot shot with a teardrop in my eye

Chorus

I used to slay the pretty girls from Maine to Alabam
I love them very much at first but then I let them down
I've seen so many pretty eyes then filled with bitter tears
Find them then forget them, but now I have my fears

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Alton Delmore and D.C. Mullins. Alton Delmore was one of the brothers with The Delmore Brothers – a very influential country duet act that recorded through the 30s and the 40s (sometimes credited with the first rock and roll record, "Freight Train Boogie," in 1946).

Recorded February 19, 1958 by Jimmy Martin, this was the A-side, with "Ocean of Diamonds" as the B-side. It can found on the album "Moonshine Hollow," which was released in 1973.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

Steam Powered Aereo Plane

John Hartford (ver. John Hartford, 1971)

Key of G, 125 BPM

<u>Chords</u>					<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>										
Verse					Verse										
G	G	G	G	A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m		C	C	C	C	D ^m D ^m	D ^m D ^m			
A ^m A ^m	C	C	G	G	G	G		D ^m D ^m	F	F	C	C	C	C	
G	G	G	G	A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m		C	C	C	C	D ^m D ^m	D ^m D ^m			
A ^m A ^m	C	C	G	G	G	G		D ^m D ^m	F	F	C	C	C	C	
Chorus					Chorus										
A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m	G	G	G	G		D ^m D ^m	D ^m D ^m	C	C	C	C			
A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m	G	G	G	G		D ^m D ^m	D ^m D ^m	C	C	C	C			
A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m	G	G	G	G		D ^m D ^m	D ^m D ^m	C	C	C	C			
A ^m A ^m	A ^m A ^m	D	D	D	D		D ^m D ^m	D ^m D ^m	G	G	G	G			

Lyrics:

Well a drifter went away on a steam powered aero plane
 I went and I stayed and I damn near didn't come back again
 I didn't go very fast on a steam powered aero plane
 Oh the wheel went around and up and down, and inside and then
 back again
 Sittin' in a 747 just a watching them clouds roll by
 Can't tell if it's sunshine or if it's rain
 A' rather be a sittin' in a deck chair high up over Kansas
 City
 On a genuine old fashioned authentic steam powered
 aereo plane
 Well I'd like to be a pilot on a steam powered aero plane
 Well I'd pull that pilot wheel around and then back again
 And I'll wear a blue hat, yeah, that says Steam Powered Aero
 plane
 With letters that go around the rim and then back again

Chorus

Notes:

John Hartford was born in New York City, but spent his childhood in Missouri on the Mississippi River. His first job on the river at 16 created a love with the Mississippi and river boats. He was a fiddle player, but also a banjo, guitar and mandolin player. In 1967 his song "Gentle On My Mind" received modest success. More importantly, it was noticed by Glen Campbell who recorded it, making it one of the most recorded country songs and provided John with financial freedom. He was also a regular performer on the Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour, Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour and The Johnny Cash Show.

In 1971 John was working with Warner Bros. Records where he was given significant freedom. Along with Norman Blake, Vassar Clements, Tut Taylor and Randy Scruggs, they recorded an unconventional bluegrass album titled Aereo-Plain. The album, while critically acclaimed, sold very poorly. However, the album would be the start of the newgrass, reinvention of bluegrass music (along with Sam Bush's band, New Grass Revival). Steam Powered Aereo Plane is the best-known song from this album. It was covered by New Grass Revival in 1981 on the album "Commonwealth." It is also a favourite cover by jam bands such as Infamous Stringdusters, Greensky Bluegrass and Leftover Salmon.

The song was originally recorded with no harmony. New Grass Revival recorded some lines as a duet.

Steel Rails

Louisa Branscomb (ver. Alison Krauss – 1990)
Key of E, 115 BPM

Chords										Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)									
	E	E		E	E		F#m	F#m		F#m	F#m								
	A	A		B	B		A	A		E	E			C	C		C	C	
	E	E												F	F		G	G	
														C	C		D ^m	D ^m	
														F	F		C	C	
														C	C				

Lyrics:

I lim
Steel rails, chasing sunshine round the bend
IV V IV I
Winding through the trees, like a ribbon in the wind
I don't mind not knowing what lies down the track
Cause I'm looking out ahead, to keep my mind from
turning back

It's not the first time I've found myself alone and known
If I really had you once, then I'd have you when I'm gone
Whistle blows, blowin' lonesome in my mind
Calling me along that never ending metal line

Chorus

Sun is shining, through the open boxcar door
Lying in my mind with the things I've known before
I've lost count of the hours, days, and nights
The rhythm of the rails keeps the motion in my mind

Chorus

Notes:

Louisa Branscomb was one of the pioneering women to front a bluegrass band – Boot Hill in 1972. Louisa wrote many of the songs for that band, including the song “Steel Rails” for the 1977 album of the same name. In 1991 Louisa went to see Alison Krauss and Union Station at the Station Inn. She decided to chat with Alison Brown, the banjo player with Krauss at the time (Louisa was also a banjo player). Brown informed Louisa that they had been trying to find her for two years as Krauss had recorded the song “Steel Rails” and had wanted to meet the songwriter (unbeknownst to Branscomb). Louisa has more than 85 songs recorded in bluegrass over the years.

Alison Krauss recorded “Steel Rails” on her 1990 album I've Got That Old Feeling. The album won Krauss her first Grammy Award. And “Steel Rails” was her first single to chart on Billboard and is the longest running chart hit in bluegrass music. The song would become a standard for almost every female bluegrass singer through the 90s and early 2000s. John Denver recorded the song in 1997 on his album “All Aboard!” In 2019, Louisa Branscomb recorded “Steel Rails” with Dale Ann Bradley, Becky Buller, Sierra Hull, Molly Tuttle, Jeanette Williams and Celia Woodsmith on the album Gonna Love Anyway.

The song is sung as a trio on the chorus.

Still Feeling Blue

Gram Parsons (ver. Country Gazette, 1973)
Key of A, 128 BPM

<u>Chords</u>		<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>	
Verse		Verse	
A A A A A A A A		G G G G G G G G	
E E E E E E E E		D D D D D D D D	
D D D D E E E E		C C C C D D D D	
A A A A		G G G G	
Chorus		Chorus	
E E E E E E E E		D D D D D D D D	
E E E E E E A A		D D D D G G	
D D D D E E E E		C C C C D D D D	

Lyrics:

I
Time can pass and time can heal,
But it don't ever pass the way I feel
You went away a long time ago
And why you left I never knew
The lonely days and lonely nights
Guess the world knows I ain't feelin' right
And when you're gone the hours pass so slow
And now I'm still feeling blue
And baby, since you've walked out of my life, I never felt so low
Can't help but wonder why you had to go
There are many girls but I can't say
They come and go but still I feel this way
And ever since the day you said goodbye
No one treats me like you used to do
I hope you're out and happy now
Doing up the town 'cause you know how
Every time I hear your name I want to die
And now I'm still feeling blue (yeah)

(repeat the last three verses)

Notes:

Gram Parsons had a huge influence on country and rock music, blurring the line between the two of them with bands like The Byrds and The Flying Burrito Brothers. In 1973 he joined with Emmylou Harris and former bandmate Chris Hillman to record a solo album – GP. He was also joined by members of Elvis' band on the record, including guitar player James Burton. The album was well received by critics, but failed to reach the Billboard charts. He would record another solo album – Greivous Angel – but it would be released posthumously. He died in September of 1973 of a drug overdose at the age of 26. This song was off his first solo album, GP.

Alan Munde's first real professional gig was with Jimmy Martin from 1969 to 1971. In 1972 he joined The Flying Burrito Brothers for a brief period before joining Country Gazette. He became very interested in pushing the boundaries of bluegrass music. With Country Gazette he would cover songs like Honky Cat by Elton John. He also covered this song, Still Feeling Blue, on the 1976 album Out To Lunch. Flatt Lonesome would also cover this song on their album Runaway Train. The last two lines of each of the verses are sung in three-part harmony. Harmony on the verse "And baby..." is sung as a modified call-and-response.

Stone Walls and Steel Bars

Ray Pennington and Roy Marcum (ver. Stanley Brothers, 1963)
Key of Bb, 177 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)</u>
Verse Bb Bb Eb Bb Bb Bb Bb Bb F Bb Eb Bb Bb Bb Chorus F F Eb Bb Bb Bb F F Eb Bb Bb Bb Bb Bb Bb Eb Eb Eb Bb Bb F Bb Eb Bb	Verse G G C G G G G G D G C G G G Chorus D D C G G G D D C G G G G G G C C C G G D G C G

Lyrics:

I IV I
 Stone walls and steel bars a love on my mind
 V I IV I
 I'm a three-time loser I'm long gone this time
 V IV I
 Jealousy has took my young life
 V IV I
 All for the love of another man's wife
 IV
 But I've had it coming I've known all the time
 I V I IV I
 No more stone walls and steel bars or you on my mind
 Chorus
 Gray-haired warden deep Frisco Bay
 Guards all around me leading my way
 But I've had it coming at the end of the line
 No more stone walls and steel bars and you on my mind
 Chorus

Notes:

Ray Pennington was singer, songwriter and record producer. In addition to co-writing Stone Walls and Steel Bars, he also wrote "I'm a Ramblin' Man" – recorded by Waylon Jennings and "Don't Cheat in Our Hometown (another song co-written with Roy Marcum). As a record producer, he worked with Hawkshaw Hawkins, Reno and Smiley and The Stanley Brothers.

The Stanley Brothers recorded "Stone Walls and Steel Bars" for King Records in August of 1963. It was released later that year as the A-side (the B-side was Lonesome Night). The song would become one of the Stanley Brothers more popular songs of the 1960s. A version of this song was released on a bootleg of Bob Dylan live recordings – After the Heart Attack – in 1997. Ralph Stanley has also recorded this song with Jimmy Martin on the 1980 album Jimmy Martin & Ralph Stanley – First Time Together. Ralph also recorded a version of this song with Junior Brown on the 1998 album Clinch Mountain Country.

The last line of the chorus ("I'm a three-time loser...") is sung as a duet.

Teardrops in My Eyes

Red Allen and Tommy Sutton (ver. Red Allen and the Osborne Brothers, 1956)

Key of C 118 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse C C C C F F F F G G G G C C C C C C C C F F F F G G G G C C C C	Verse G G G G C C C C D D D D G G G G G G G G C C C C D D D D G G G G
Chorus G G G G C C C C D D D D G G G G C C C C F F F F G G G G C C C C	Chorus D D D D G G G G A A A A D D D D G G G G C C C C D D D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I IV
Those heartaches now are on my way

V I
What makes you want to be that way
You cheated on me and you've lied
You put teardrops in my eyes

V I
I found out what they say is true
II V
I hope someday that you'll be blue
I IV
And then you'll know dear why I cry
V I
With these teardrops in my eyes

I heard the rumors all around
That someday you'd let me down
I turn my head when gossip flies
Cause it puts teardrops in my eyes

Chorus

I never thought you'd let me down
But now at last I understand
You wrecked my life and broke our vows
You'll have to pay for it somehow

Chorus

Notes:

Tommy Sutton was an early western singer/performer who eventually became a disc jockey. He was a regular at the Renfro Valley Barn Dance. Tommy Sutton was a co-writer on multiple songs, including "Della Mae," "It Hurts To Know" and "Two Lonely Hearts," just to name a few.

In 1956, The Osborne Brothers with Red Allen released "Teardrops in My Eyes" as a B-side, along with "Who Done It?" as the A-side. The Osborne Brothers and Red Allen produced music from 1956 to 1958. Red Allen would then team up with Frank Wakefield.

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band recorded a version on their 1974 album "Stars and Stripes Forever." The Rice Brothers recorded a version for their 1989 self-titled album. And more recently, the Grascals recorded a version on their 2005 self-titled debut album.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

Tennessee in 1949

Leroy Drumm and Pete Goble (ver. Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers, 1987)
Key of B, 98 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 4th Fret)</u>									
Verse										Verse									
B	B	E	E	B	B	B	B			G	G	C	C	G	G	G	G		
B	B	E	E	B	B	B	B			G	G	C	C	G	G	G	G		
E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B			C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G		
C#	C#	C#	C#	F#	F#	F#	F#			A	A	A	A	D	D	D	D		
B	B	E	E	B	B	B	B			G	G	C	C	G	G	G	G		
B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E			G	G	G	G	C	C	C	C		
E	E	E	E	B	B	B	B			C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G		
B	B	F#	F#	B	B	B	B			G	G	D	D	G	G	G	G		
Chorus										Chorus									
B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E			G	G	G	G	C	C	C	C		
B	B	B	B	F#	F#	F#	F#			G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D		
B	B	B	B	E	E	E	E			G	G	G	G	C	C	C	C		
B	B	F#	F#	B	B	B	B			G	G	D	D	G	G	G	G		

Lyrics:

I IV I
I wonder if it's rainin' in the mountains
IV I
I wonder how the old town looks today
IV I
And if the church is there beside the river
II V
Could I go back and find where mama lay
I IV I
Does life still go to sleep just after sunset
IV
Are the berries still as big on the vine
I
Do old men sit and talk about the old days
V I
The way they did in nineteen forty-nine

I IV
Oh oh oh how I'd like to be
I V
Back in the hills of Tennessee
I IV
Oh oh oh it would be so fine
I V I
If I could just go back to 1949

I wonder if by chance they might remember
A teenage boy so wild and fancy free
Who always loved guitars and country music
If I went back would they remember me

I wonder what became of Katherine Ackers
The girl who broke my heart at seventeen
I barely can remember what she looks like
Thirty years ago she was my dream

Chorus

For many years I've searched the wide world over
For what I don't recall and didn't find
And now I'm searching pictures in my memory
For Tennessee in 1949

Notes:

Leroy Drumm and Pete Goble are an extremely talented songwriting team that also wrote "Blue Virginia Blues," "Joe's Last Train" and "Coleen Malone," just to name a few. Leroy couldn't play an instrument but was an excellent poet, and Pete Goble was able to put many of his poems to music.

Both Larry Sparks and Pete Goble (with Bill Emerson) released this song in 1987 – Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers on the album "Silver Reflections" and Emerson and Goble on the album "Tennessee in 1949."

Originally, the chorus was sung with no harmony. Typically you will hear the chorus with three-part harmony.

The Last Thing On My Mind

Tom Paxton (ver. Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys – 1975)
Key of F, 118 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
F F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ F F F B $\flat$	C C F F C C C F
F F C C F F F F	C C G G C C C C
F F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ F F F B $\flat$	C C F F C C C F
F F C C F F F F	C C G G C C C C
Chorus	Chorus
C C C C B $\flat$ B $\flat$ F F	G G G G F F C C
B $\flat$ B $\flat$ F F C C C C	F F C C G G G G
F F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ F F F F	C C F F C C C C
C C C C F F F F	G G G G C C C C

Lyrics:

I IV I
It's a lesson too late for the learning
V I
Made of sand, made of sand
In the wink of an eye my soul is turning
In your hand, in your hand
V IV I
Are you going away with no word of farewell
V
Will there be not a trace left behind
I IV I
I could have loved you better, didn't mean to be unkind
V I
You know it was the last thing on my mind

You have reasons of plenty for going
This I know, this I know
For the weeds have been steadily growing
Please don't go, please don't go

Chorus

As I lie in my bed in the morning
Without you, without you
Every song in my heart dies with mourning
Without you, without you

Chorus

Notes:

Tom Paxton was originally from Chicago. His family moved to Arizona due to his father's failing health. While in Arizona, he became interested in the music of Burl Ives. Later, his family moved to Oklahoma where Paxton would attend The University of Oklahoma. It was here he discovered the Weavers and Woody Guthrie's songwriting and became immersed in the folk music scene. Tom would write standards such as "Ramblin' Boy," "Bottle of Wine" and many more. His songs have been recorded by Pete Seager, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson and many more. Paxton wrote "The Last Thing On My Mind" in the early 60s and recorded in 1964 on his album "Ramblin' Boy." Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton would record the song in 1967 – their first single as a duet. The song peaked at number 7 on the Billboard Hot Country Singles Chart.

The song has been recorded by acts as diverse as Harry Belafonte to John Denver to Townes Van Zandt. Earl Scruggs recorded the song with Doc Watson and others in 1971 on the album "Earl Scruggs Performing with his Family and Friends." Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys recorded the song on their self-titled album in 1975. Country Gazette recorded the song in 1976 on their album "Out To Lunch." Tony Rice would record the song in 1983 on his album "Church Street Blues."

The chorus can be sung solo, as a duet or as a trio.

The White Dove

Carter Stanley (ver. Stanley Brothers, 1949)
Key of D, 105 bpm

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
D D G G D D A A	C C F F C C G G
D D G G D A D D	C C F F C G C C
Chorus	Chorus
D D G G D A D D	C C F F C G C C
D D G G D A D D	C C F F C G C C

Lyrics:

I IV
In the deep rolling hills of old Virginia
I V
There's a place I love so well
I IV
Where I spent many days of my childhood
I V I
In the cabin where we loved to dwell

White dove will mourn in sorrow
The willows will hang their heads
I'll live my life in sorrow
Since mother and daddy are dead

We were all so happy there together
In our peaceful little mountain home
But the Savior needs angels in heaven
Now they sing around that great white throne

Chorus

As the years roll by I often wonder
Will we all be together some day
And each night as I wander through the graveyard
Darkness finds me where I kneel to pray

Notes:

Written by Carter Stanley in 1949 while on the road with Ralph. Ralph was annoyed because the light was bothering Carter. He was even more annoyed when he found out the song he Carter wrote had killed off their parents. However, it was to become one of the Stanley Brothers most famous songs.

Recorded by the Stanley Brothers on March 1, 1949 at Castle Studio in Nashville. It was released as the A-side. The B-side was "The Master's Bouquet." Osborne Brothers released a version on the 1978 album "The Osborne Brothers' Bluegrass Collection."

Chorus is sung in three-part harmony. On the original recording, at the suggestion of Al Wooten, they modified the standard three-part harmony approach by switching the low baritone to high baritone (Pee Wee Lambert and Ralph sang harmony to Carter).

Think of What You've Done

Carter Stanley (ver. Stanley Brothers 1958)

Key of Db, 131 BPM

Chords

Chorus

G $\flat$ G $\flat$	G $\flat$ G $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
A $\flat$ A $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
G $\flat$ G $\flat$	G $\flat$ G $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
A $\flat$ A $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$

Verse

D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
A $\flat$ A $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
G $\flat$ G $\flat$	G $\flat$ G $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$
A $\flat$ A $\flat$	A $\flat$ A $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$	D $\flat$ D $\flat$

Chords (Capo 1st Fret)

Chorus

F F	F F	C C	C C
G G	G G	C C	C C
F F	F F	C C	C C
G G	G G	C C	C C

Verse

C C	C C	C C	C C
G G	G G	C C	C C
F F	F F	C C	C C
G G	G G	C C	C C

Lyrics:

IV I
 Is it true that I've lost you
 V I
 Am I not the only one
 IV I
 After all this pain and sorrow
 V I
 Darlin', think of what you've done

Heart to heart, dear, how I need you

V I
 Like the flowers need the dew

IV I
 Lovin' you has been my life blood

V I
 Can't believe we're really through

Chorus

I'll go back to old Virginia
 Where the mountain meets the skies
 In those hills I learned to love you
 Let me stay there till I die

Chorus

Notes:

Originally recorded by The Stanley Brothers in October, 1958 with King Records, it was released on the self-titled album Stanley Brothers and the Clinch Mountain Boys in December of 1958. The song was originally recorded in C# - though their instruments were probably tuned up a half-step and they would have been playing their instruments in C.

It has been covered extensively. Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers recorded it on the album Dark Hollow in 1982. On the 1985 album High Country Snows, Dan Fogelberg released a version. ON the 1990 album Take It Home, Hot Rize recorded a version. And Ricky Skaggs album Bluegrass Rules from 1997 also includes a version of this song.

The song is sung with three-part harmony on the chorus.

Thirty Years of Farming

Fred Eaglesmith (ver. James King, 2002)

Key of G, 123 BPM

Chords								Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)							
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
A ⁷	A ⁷	A ⁷	A ⁷	D	D	D	D	E ⁷	E ⁷	E ⁷	E ⁷	A	A	A	A
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D
G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
G	G	D	D	G	G	G	G	D	D	A	A	D	D	D	D

Lyrics:

I IV I
 There's a little white note on a gate by the road that a man put up yesterday
 II V
 And when we saw it we all ran out just to see what it had to say
 I IV I
 And when we read it our eyes filled with tears and we fell to the cold hard clay
 V I
 Something 'bout a mortgage, something 'bout foreclosure
 V I
 Something 'bout failing to pay
 Oh, and on the post by the general store they've put up a little sign
 An auction sale, day after tomorrow at the end of the Lincoln Line
 Thirty years of farming thirty years of heartache thirty years of day to day
 Oh, my Daddy stopped talking the day the farm was auctioned
 There was nothing left to say
 Oh, my Mama's tears fell freely down as she walked among the flowers in the yard
 And every number the auctioneer called was like a blow to her precious heart
 And every number the auctioneer called meant another thing was sold that day
 While everything was auctioned we stood there watching
 While they loaded it and drove it away
 Chorus
 At the day's first dawning we awoke this morning there was nothing for us to do
 Nothing in the granary, no hay in the meadow, no cattle, no tractor, no tools
 So we loaded up the car, took the clothes we wore and a few things we managed to save
 Mama read from The Book, we took one last look
 And then we drove away
 Chorus

Notes:

Written by Fred Eaglesmith, a singer songwriter born near Guelph Ontario. As a teenager, Fred hopped a freight train to western Canada and began his career as a musician. He formed two bands – The Flying Squirrels played folk rock, while the Flathead Noodlers played bluegrass. He frequently collaborated with Willie P. Bennett and Washboard Hank. Fred's songs have been covered by Alan Jackson, Toby Keith, Miranda Lambert and Ani DiFranco. Eaglesmith recorded this song in 1987 on his album "Indiana Road."

James King recorded this song in 2002 on his album "Thirty Years of Farming."

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony. The last time the chorus is sung, the first two lines are sung a cappella.

Wait a Minute

Herb Pedersen (ver. The Seldom Scene, 1974)

Key of B, 82 BPM

Chords					Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)				
B	B	F#	F#	C#m	C#m	E	E		
B	B	B	B	B	B	F#	F#		
C#m	C#m	E	E	F#	F#	F#	F#		
F#	F#	F#	F#			G	G	D	D
						G	G	G	G
						Am	Am	C	C
						D	D	D	D

Lyrics:

I V iim IV I
 Wait a minute, did I hear you say you're goin' far away again?
 V iim IV V
 Try to change it, I can't take the lonely nights without your love

Due on the road, to get the music done and move along?
 What good does it do, play your songs for her and hear her say?

Chorus

Rollin' along, life's been good to you and even so
 She comes to you, late at night's the time you hear her say once again

Chorus

Waitin' for you thirty days and nights without a rest
 I got to hold on, twenty-five to go and once again, I'll hear her say

Chorus twice

Notes:

Herb Pedersen was born in Berkeley California and became a staple of the California bluegrass and folk scene. In his 20s her would play banjo with Vern Williams and Ray Park and also replace Doug Dillard on banjo with The Dillards. His knowledge of harmonies made him a sought-after session musician, playing with Linda Ronstadt, Gram Parsons, Emmylou Harris and many more. In the 1980s he joined the Desert Rose Band with his high school friend Chris Hillman. Herb continues to tour with Hillman.

Pedersen wrote this song after spending a long tour on the road, coming home for a week and getting a call right away to go back on the road for another 9 weeks. In the same week, Herb also wrote the song Old Train (actually co-wrote the song with his wife at the time). Both songs would appear on The Seldom Scene album "Old Train." Both songs would become popular among fans of Seldom Scene.

Alan Jackson covered the song on his 2006 album "Like Red on a Rose." Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen would record the song live in 2010 on the album "Chris Hillman and Herb Pedersen at Edwards Barn."

This song has since been recorded by a number of bluegrass artists, including J.D. Crowe and the New South on the "brown album," also known as "Rounder 0044" in 1975.

The song is sung as a trio on all choruses except the first time the chorus is sung.

We'll Meet Again Sweetheart

Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1949)

Key of B, 104 BPM

Chords

	B	B		B	B		E	E		E	E	
	F#	F#		F#	F#		B	B		B	B	
	B	B		B	B		E	E		E	E	
	F#	F#		F#	F#		B	B		B	B	

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV

The time has come to say goodbye

V I

I'm asking you to please don't cry

IV

The time to me won't be so long

V I

To know you're happy back at home

Someday we'll meet again sweetheart
We'll meet and nevermore to part
Someday we'll meet again sweetheart
Don't cry, so please don't break my heart

So goodbye now don't be blue
Try to be happy and be true
And remember what I say
Sweetheart we'll meet again someday

Chorus

Oh sweetheart I'm leaving now
Yes I'll soon be on my way
Each night upon my knees I'll pray
Sweetheart we'll meet again someday

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs in 1948.

This song was recorded by Flatt and Scruggs in November, 1948 and was released in 1949 as the A-side (the A-side was "My Cabin in Caroline"). This was one of the first four songs recorded for Mercury Records after Lester and Earl left Bill Monroe. Jim Shumate played fiddle and Howard Watts (Cedric Rainwater) played upright bass – there was no mandolin player. Mac Wiseman was at this recording session singing harmonies on this song and two others. Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so their instruments were tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So while this song is in the key of B, they would have been playing in Bb positions.

This is a classic "jam" song. Originally it was recorded as a duet. In live performances, they would sing it as a trio.

Where the Soul of Man Never Dies

William Golden (ver. Ricky Skaggs and Tony Rice, 1980)
Key of E, 118 BPM

Chords												Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)													
	E	E		E	E		A	A		E	E			C	C		C	C		F	F		C	C	
	E	E		E	E		B	B		B	B			C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	E	E		E	E		A	A		E	E			C	C		C	C		F	F		C	C	
	E	E		B	B		E	E		E	E			C	C		G	G		C	C		C	C	

Lyrics:

I IV I
To Canaan's land, I'm on my way,
V
Where the soul (of man) never dies.
IV I
My darkest night will turn to day,
V I
Where the soul (of man) never dies.

No sad farewells. (Dear friends there'll be no sad
farewells.)
No tear dimmed eyes (There'll be no tear dimmed eyes.)
Where all is love, (Where all is peace and joy and love.)
And the soul never dies. (And the soul of man never dies.)

The roses bloom in there for me,
Where the soul (of man) never dies.
And I will spend eternity,
Where the soul (of man) never dies.

Chorus

The love light beams across the foam,
Where the soul (of man) never dies.
It shines and lights the way to home,
Where the soul (of man) never dies.

Chorus (twice)

Notes:

William Golding was from Webster County, Mississippi. He wrote this song in 1918 while serving an eight-year sentence in the state penitentiary. It was first recorded by Rev. M. L. Thrasher and His Gospel Singers. However, the early recording most associated with this song was the Blue Sky Boys version recorded in July of 1936. Hank Williams and Willie Nelson have also recorded this song.

Earl (guitar) and Bill (mandolin) Bolick made their debut at a small radio station in Asheville, North Carolina in 1935. In 1936 they moved to Atlanta and decided to audition at RCA Records. At first, they were accused of being copies of the Monroe Brothers. However, when Eli Oberstein heard them sing, he immediately signed them to a contract. Their first record was "Sunny Side of Life" coupled with this song "Where the Soul Never Dies." It became an instant hit. And between 1937 and 1941 they recorded approximately 100 songs. In 1949 honky tonk music was becoming popular. RCA asked them to play with an electric guitar and they refused. They retired in 1951. In 1975 they were convinced to record again for Rounder Records and toured for a brief period.

In 1980, Ricky Skaggs and Tony Rice released an album that featured a series of duets accompanied only by mandolin and guitar – a call back to the brother duet groups of the 30s and the 40s. This song was included, and would become a bluegrass standard. The song is sung as a duet with the lead holding on notes while the tenor sings additional words over top.

Whitehouse Blues

Charlie Poole (ver. Bill Monroe and His Bluegrass Boys – 1954)
Key of B, 176 BPM

Chords								Chords (Capo 4 th Fret)								
	B	B		B	B		B	B			G	G		G	G	
	E	E		E	E		E	E			C	C		C	C	
	F#	F#		F#	F#		B	B			D	D		G	G	

Lyrics:

I
McKinley hollered, McKinley squalled
IV I
Doc said, "McKinley I can't find the cause
V I
You're bound to die, you're bound to die"

Doc told the horse, he'd throw down his rein
He said to the horse, "You gotta outrun the train
From Buffalo to Washington"

The Doc come a-running, he took off his specs
He said, "Mr McKinley better cash in your checks
You're bound to die, you're bound to die"

Look here, you rascal, you see what you've done
You shot my husband and I've got your gun
I'm carrying you back, to Washington

Roosevelt's in the White House, he's doing his best
McKinley's in the graveyard, he's taking his rest
He's gone, for a long time

Notes:

First recorded by Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers September 20, 1926. Based on the President McKinley assassination in September of 1901. McKinley was shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz. He was shot in the stomach twice. They found the first bullet but not the second bullet. After appearing to get better, gangrene started to set in. On September 14, McKinley passed away and Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in. Leon Czolgosz was executed and died on the electric chair.

Charlie Poole was an old-time banjo player. The North Carolina Ramblers was a string and country band with Charlie, his brother-in-law-fiddle player Posey Rorer and guitar player Norman Woodlief. They signed on with Columbia Records and recorded "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down" July 27, 1925.. The song sold over 106,000 copies. Charlie Poole would die of a heart attack in 1931 due to excessive alcoholism.

Recorded by Bill Monroe in January of 1954 with Rudy Lyle on banjo, Jimmy Martin on guitar, Ernie Newton on bass and Charlie Cline on fiddle. It was released as a B-side (the A-side was "Get Up John." It was credited to "Wilbur Jones," which was one of the pseudonyms Bill Monroe would use for writing credits.

Flatt and Scruggs performed this song as "McKinley's Gone" at Carnegie Hall in 1962.

It may be easier to cover who hasn't performed this song as this is a favourite of bluegrass artists in live performances. Sam Bush regularly performs this song live, as does Del McCoury, Greensky Bluegrass, Chris Thile, etc..It's on the 1977 album "On Stage in Nashville" by The Bluegrass Cardinals. Boone Creek recorded this song on their 1977 debut album. There are many more.

Who's That Knocking at My Door

Pat Enright (ver. Dreadful Snakes, 1983)

Key of F, 107 BPM

Chords												Chords (Capo 3 rd Fret)													
	F	F		F	F		F	F		F	F			D	D		D	D		D	D		D	D	
	F	F		C	C		F	F		F	F			D	D		A	A		D	D		D	D	
	F	F		F	F		F	F		F	F			D	D		D	D		D	D		D	D	
	E	E		C	C		F	F		F	F			D	D		A	A		D	D		D	D	

Lyrics:

I
Who's that knocking at my door, have I heard that knock before
V I
Is it evil trying to get into my room

Who's that tapping at my window, who's calling me to go
V I
To a place that's filled with dark and gloom

Oh this life that I'm living, it seems so unforgiving
I find trouble everywhere that I go
I always seek it first, just to quench my burning thirst
In waters that are cool as fallen snow

Chorus

But the waters are oh so deep, what you sow you must reap
Now I hear a knocking at my door
It's evil standing outside, there's no place to run and hide
It plucks my soul and presses me to the floor

Oh I've been down that pathway that always leads the wrong way
But this time I don't think I'll be back
It's like a freight train pulling me, there's a dark tunnel ahead I see
This train's going down a one-way track

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Pat Enright wrote this song in the early 80s and recorded the song with Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Blaine Sprouse, Roland White and Mark Hembree on the 1983 album "The Dreadful Snakes." Pat Enright had met Bela Fleck in the late 70s and had recorded two albums with Bela as part of the band Tasty Licks (self-titled and "Anchored to the Shore."). The Dreadful Snakes was loosely put together for a few gigs and the one recording. In 1984, Pat Enright and Mark Hembree would join Alan O'Bryant and Mike Compton to form the Nashville Bluegrass Band.

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony.

Who Will Watch the Home Place

Kate Long (ver. Laurie Lewis, 1993)

Key of B, 98 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
B B E B B B F# F#	G G C G G G D D
B B E B B C F# F#	G G C G G A D D
Chorus	Chorus
B E B B E B E F#	G C G G C G C D
B E B E B F# B B	G C G C G D G G

Lyrics:

I IV I
 Leaves are falling and turning to showers of gold
 V
 As the postman climbs up our long hill
 I IV
 And there's sympathy written all over his face
 IIm V
 As he hands me a couple more bills
 I IV I
 Who will watch the home place
 IV I IV V
 Who will tend my hearts dear space
 I IV I IV
 Who will fill my empty place
 V I
 When I am gone from here

 There's a lovely green nook by a clear-running stream
 It was my place when I was quite small
 And it's creatures and sounds could soothe my worst pains
 But today they don't ease me at all

Chorus

In my grandfather's shed there are hundreds of tools
 I know them by feel and by name
 And like parts of my body they've patched this old place
 When I move them they won't feel the same

Now I wander around touching each blessed thing
 The chimney the tables the trees
 And my memories swirl 'round me like birds on the wing
 When I leave here oh who will I be

Chorus

Notes:

This song was written by Kate Long, who, in addition to being a songwriter, is also a journalist.

Laurie Lewis grew up playing piano, guitar and fiddle, but after high school, she drifted away from music. But a few years later she discovered the Bay Area bluegrass scene in northern California. In the 70s, Laurie founded a band comprise of all females, The Good Ol Persons with Kathy Kallick and dobro player Sally Van Meter. Eventually the band would have John Reischman on mandolin. Laurie would later team up with mandolin player Tim Rozum. In addition to being a wonderful fiddle player and singer, she is a great songwriter and strong ambassador of accepting everyone into bluegrass.

Laurie Lewis recorded Who Will Watch the Home Place and released it on her album "True Stories." She typically ends her concerts with this song, getting everyone in the audience to accompany her.

The chorus was recorded with four-part harmony.

Why Don't You Tell Me So

Lester Flatt (ver. Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and the Foggy Mountain Boys, 1949)

Key of G, 115 BPM

<u>Chords</u>												<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>											
Verse												Verse											
	G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D		D	D		D	D
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D		D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C		D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G		D	D		A	A		D	D		D	D
Chorus												Chorus											
	C	C		C	C		G	G		G	G		G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D		D	D		A	A		A	A		A	A
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C		D	D		D	D		G	G		G	G
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G		D	D		A	A		D	D		D	D

Lyrics:

I
I can tell from the look in your eyes
V
That you still care for me
I IV
But somehow you just won't admit
I V I
That's why it's so lonely, you see
IV I
Now if you have made up your mind
V
And if you still want me to know
I IV
Why do you keep me in doubt
I V I
Why don't you tell me so

Each night there's tears upon my pillow
They're all because of you I know
Dear I can't go on this way
Why don't you tell me so

Chorus

Now there'll come a time, little darling
When you will want me I know
But dear it will then be too late
For you to tell me so

Chorus

Notes:

In early 1948, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs left Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys and, within a few months, had formed their own band, The Foggy Mountain Boys. Their first recording session in 1948 and included Mac Wiseman on harmony vocals, Jim Shumate on fiddle and Howard Watts on upright bass. Their second recording session in May, 1949 in Cincinnati had Curly Seckler on mandolin and harmony vocals, Art Wooten on fiddle and kept Howard Watts on bass. They recorded four songs at that session – Baby Blue Eyes, Bouquet in Heaven, Down the Road and Why Don't You Tell Me So.

Why Don't You Tell Me So was released October of 1949 as the B-side (the A-side was Down the Road). Country Gazette recorded the song in 1979 on the album "All This, and Money, Too!" Other notable recordings include Red Allen recording it in 1980 with Curly Seckler on harmony as a tribute to Lester Flatt after Lester passed away. Tony Rice recorded a version in 1983 on the album "Cold On Your Shoulder."

Originally the chorus was sung as a duet. It is also regularly sung with the chorus as three-part harmony.

Will the Roses Bloom (Where She Lies Sleeping)

J and I Bevins (ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1949)

Key of D $\flat$, 86 BPM

<u>Chords</u>		<u>Chords (Capo 1st Fret)</u>	
Verse		Verse	
D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$		C C C C F F F F	
D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$		C C C C G G G G	
D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$ G $\flat$		C C C C F F F F	
D $\flat$ D $\flat$ A $\flat$ A $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$ D $\flat$		C C G G C C C C	

Lyrics:

I IV
Will the roses bloom where she lies sleeping
I V
Will the flowers shed their petals there
I IV
Will the dewdrops fall upon the roses
I V I
Where my darling sleeps beneath the sand

Her lips were like a bunch of roses
Her eyes shine like the starlit sky
And her hair was dark and it was curly
I'll love her till the day I die

Chorus

How I miss my darling as she's sleeping
Underneath the beautiful sky
I miss her more now since she has left me
I know we've said our last goodbye

Chorus

Notes:

I believe the Bevins Brothers is an alias, but I can't be certain. If The Bevins Brothers did write this song, it's their only writing credit.

Recorded by Flatt and Scruggs on October 20, 1950. Jody Rainwater, the bass player, played mandolin on the original recording while Benny Sims, the fiddle player, played upright bass. It was released as a B-side (the A-side was "Preachin', Prayin', Singin'.")

Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so Earls' banjo was tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So to play along with the original recording, a capo is required on the first fret or you need to retune.

Ricky Skaggs and Tony Rice recorded this song in 1980 on the album "Skaggs & Rice."

Typically the chorus is sung as a duet.

Will You Be Loving Another Man

Bill Monroe and Lester Flatt (ver. Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, 1946)

Key of A, 122 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>											
Verse								Verse											
	A	A		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		A	A		E	E			G	G		D	D		D	D	
	A	A		A	A		D	D			G	G		C	C		C	C	
	A	A		E	E		A	A			G	G		D	D		G	G	

Lyrics:

I
Now will you love me little darlin'

V
When I'm in some other land

I IV
And you know I can't be with you

I V I
Or will you be lovin' another man

Will you be lovin' another man
Will you be lovin' another man
When I return will you be waiting
Or will you be lovin' another man

Now don't be cryin' on my shoulder
And telling me that love is grand
And before I'm out of sight dear
Then be loving another man

Chorus

Now if I find this to be true dear
I want you to please understand
When I return don't say you're sorry
Just keep on lovin' another man

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Bill Monroe and Lester Flatt, this was amongst the first dozen songs recorded by what is considered the first bluegrass band – Bill Monroe on mandolin, Lester Flatt on guitar, Earl Scruggs on banjo, Chubby Wise on fiddle and Howard Watts on upright bass. Together they would record a total of 28 songs together. This song was recorded on their second day at the Columbia Recording Studio in Chicago on September 17 1946. It wouldn't be released until July 1947 as a B-side (the A-side was Blue Yodel #4).

This song has been recorded many times. In 1972 Larry Sparks recorded a version of this song on his album "Bluegrass Old and New." Tony Rice covered the song in 1993 on the album "Tony Rice Plays and Sings Bluegrass." More recently, The Grascals recorded the song in 2006 on "Long List of Heartaches."

Originally sung as a duet on the chorus, it is sometimes sung as a trio.

Willow Garden

Traditional (ver. Osborne Brothers, 1956)
Key of G, 71 BPM, $\frac{3}{4}$

Chords

| G | G | G | Em | G | G | Em | Em |
| G | G | G | Em | G | D | G | G |

| Em | Em | G | Em | G | G | Em | Em |
| G | G | G | Em | G | D | G | G |

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

| D | D | D | Bm | D | D | Bm | Bm |
| D | D | D | Bm | D | A | D | D |

| Bm | Bm | D | Bm | D | D | Bm | Bm |
| D | D | D | Bm | D | A | D | D |

Lyrics:

I Vim I Vim
Down in the willow garden where me and my love did meet
I Vim I V I
There we set a-courting my love fell off to sleep
Vim I Vim I Vim
I had a bottle of burgundy wine which true love did not know
I Vim I V I
There I poisoned that dear little girl down on the banks below

I drew a saber through her which was a bloody knife
I threw her in the river which was a dreadful sight
My father often told me that money would set me free
If I would murder that dear little girl whose name was Rose Connelly

Now he sits in his old cabin door a wiping his tear-dimmed eyes
A-looking at his own dear son upon the scaffold high
My race is run beneath the sun the devil is waiting for me
For I did murder that dear little girl whose name was Rose Connelly

Notes:

Also known as "Rose Connolly," this song originally was brought to the Appalachian region from Ireland, where it dates back to at least the early 1800s. An Irish Ballad "The Rambling Boys of Pleasure" and "The Wexford Girl" are likely the roots of this song ("The Wexford Girl" is also the source for "The Knoxville Girl," which has a very similar theme to "Willow Garden."

Charlie Monroe recorded this song in 1947 with his band The Kentucky Pardners. The version printed here is the Osborne Brothers with Red Allen. They recorded a version ("Down in the Willow Garden") in 1956 featuring twin banjos, played by Sonny and Bobby. Tim O'Brien recorded a version for his 1999 album "The Crossing." The Lonesome River Band recorded a version on the 2000 album "Talkin' To Myself."

Sung as a duet throughout the song.

With Body and Soul

Virginia Stauffer (ver. Bill Monroe, 1969)
Key of A, 70 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 2nd Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
A A G G A A A A	G G F F G G G G
A A G G E E E E	G G F F D D D D
A A D D A A A A	G G C C G G G G
A A E E A A A A	G G D D G G G G
Chorus	Chorus
A A G G A A D D	G G F F G G C C
A A A A E E A A	G G G G D D G G
A A	G G

Lyrics:

I VII I
See that train comin' round the bend
VII V
Carrying the one that I love
I IV I
Her beautiful body is still here on earth
V I
But her soul has been called above
VII I IV
Body and soul, body and soul
I V I
That's how she loved me, with body and soul

Her beautiful hair was the purest of gold
Her eyes were blue as the sea
Her lips were the color of summer's red rose
And she promised she would always love me

Chorus

Tomorrow as the sun sinks low
The shadows will cover her face
Her last sun goes down and she's laid beneath the ground
And my teardrops are fallin' like rain

Chorus

Notes:

Virginia Stauffer met and was on the road with Bill Monroe from 1963 to 1969. She wrote a number of songs for Bill Monroe, including Road of Life, Show Me the Way and I Live in the Past. Bill Monroe called her "Gypsy" on account of her dark hair and wrote the instrumental Virginia Darlin' in her honour.

Bill Monroe recorded With Body and Soul in April 1969. Seldom Scene recorded the song on their 1972 album Act 1, adding three part harmony on the choruses. The Johnson Mountain Boys recorded this song as well on their 1989 live album "At The Old Schoolhouse."

Originally the song was sung with no harmony. However, it is sometimes sung with three-part harmony through the chorus (with the line "That's how she loved me" sung solo).

Won't You Come and Sing For Me

Hazel Dickens (ver. Hazel & Alice, 1973)

Key of G, 105 BPM

<u>Chords</u>										<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>									
Verse										Verse									
D	D	D	D	C	C	G	G			A	A	A	A	G	G	D	D		
C	C	C	C	G	G	D	D		D D	G	G	G	G	D	D	A	A		A A
C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G			G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D		
D	D	D	D	C	C	G	G		G G	A	A	A	A	G	G	D	D		D D
Chorus										Chorus									
C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G			G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D		
D	D	D	D	C	C	G	G		G G	A	A	A	A	G	G	D	D		D D
C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G			G	G	G	G	D	D	D	D		
D	D	D	D	C	C	G	G		G G	A	A	A	A	G	G	D	D		D D

Lyrics:

V IV I
I feel the shadows now upon me
IV I V
And fair angels beckon me
IV I
Before I go dear Christian brother
V IV I
Won't you come and sing for me

Sing the hymns we sang together
In that plain little church with the benches all worn
How dear to my heart how precious the moments
We stood shaking hands and singing a song

My burden's heavy my way has grown weary
I have traveled a road that was long
And it would warm this old heart my brother
If you come and sing one song

Chorus

In my home beyond that dark river
Your dear faces no more I will see
Until we meet where there's no more sad parting
Won't you come and sing for me

Chorus

Notes:

Hazel Dickens grew up in West Virginia, the eighth of eleven siblings. Most of her family were coal miners and was exposed to a lot of the dangers of coal mining, as well as the union activity that would greatly influence her values and beliefs. In the 1950s Hazel moved to Baltimore where she met Mike Seeger – founding member of the New Lost City Ramblers. She developed a collaborative relationship with Mike's wife, Alice Gerrard. Hazel became quite political in her songwriting, both as a feminist and a supporter of unions.

Won't You Come and Sing For Me was the first commercial recording of Hazel's that had lyrics, music and ideas that were entirely Hazel's. She recorded the song in 1967, but it wouldn't be released until 1973 on the Folkways album "Hazel & Alice – Won't You Come & Sing For Me?" David Grisman played mandolin and Billy Baker was on fiddle. Hot Rize recorded the song in 1986 on the album "Untold Stories." Laurie Lewis & the Right Hands also released the song on the 2016 album "The Hazel and Alice Sessions."

The chorus is sung in three-part harmony. It was originally recorded with Fred Weisz adding a fourth, bass part.

I Wouldn't Change You If I Could

Paul Jones and Arthur Q. Smith (ver. Reno and Smiley, 1959)

Key of F, 85 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)</u>
Verse F F F F C C C C C C C C F F F F F F F F C C C C C C C C F F F F	Verse D D D D A A A A A A A A D D D D D D D D A A A A A A A A D D D D
Chorus B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$ F F F F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$ F F C C C C F F F F C C C C C C C C C C F F F F	Chorus G G G G D D D D G G G G D D A A A A D D D D A A A A A A A A A A D D D D

Lyrics:

I V
 I wouldn't change a single thing about you if I could
 I
 The way you are just suits me too a tee
 V
 A princess in a storybook a queen upon her throne
 I
 That's what you are and you belong too me.
 IV I
 I wouldn't change you if I could I love you as you are
 IV I V
 You're all that I would wish for if I wished upon a star
 I V
 An angel sent from heaven you're everything that's good
 You're perfect just the way you are
 I
 I wouldn't change you if I could.

Your eyes your lips, your tender smile I'd leave them as they are
 And come what may I'd love you just the same
 And if I were a potter and you a piece of clay
 The only thing I'd change would be your name.

Chorus

Notes:

Written by Paul Jones and Arthur Q. Smith. Arthur Smith (born Arthur Pritchett) was a chronic alcoholic and sold a number of his songs to other artists, such as "Crying My Heart Over You," "Wedding Bells" and a number of songs to Bill Monroe (sometimes selling them for bottles of liquor). Sometimes this song is falsely attributed to Jim Eanes.

Recorded by Don Reno and Red Smiley, this song was the A-side to a 1959 album (the instrumental "Little Rock Getaway" was the B-side). It is also on the 1976 album "Country Singing & Instrumentals." It was also recorded by Jim Eanes on the self-titled album released in 1959. Ricky Skaggs also recorded a version of this song in 1982 on his album "Highways & Heartaches.

The chorus was originally sung as a duo.

Wrong Road Again

Allen Reynolds (ver. Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys, 1983)

Key of Ab, 113 BPM

<u>Chords</u>								<u>Chords (Capo 1st Fret)</u>												
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		B $\flat$ B $\flat$		G	G		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		B $\flat$ B $\flat$		G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		B $\flat$ B $\flat$		G	G		C	C		G	G		G	G	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		B $\flat$ B $\flat$		G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV I
 I can't seem to learn not to love you
 V I
 For you get to me every time
 IV I
 You're someone I just can't say no to
 V I
 And you're so good at changing my mind

Here I go down that wrong road again
 Going back where I've already been
 Even knowing oh where it'll end
 Here I go down that wrong road again

I see the web you are weaving
 You and your soft evil lies
 Before I can think I'm believing
 And I'm falling for you one more time

Chorus

Chorus

Notes:

In the mid-70s, country music was making a major move into pop music with musicians such as Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers and Eddie Rabbit. Crystal Gayle (sister to Loretta Lynn) recorded this song in 1975 – her first single from her album "Crystal Gayle." The song would peak at number 6 on the Billboard Country charts, helping to launch Crystal Gayle's country career.

Joe Val and the New England Bluegrass Boys would be the first band that would bring this song into the bluegrass genre, recorded in 1983 on the album "Cold Wind." John Hartford also recorded the song in 1984 on his album Gum Tree Canoe. Other recordings include Lynn Morris' version from 1999 on the album "You'll Never Be the Sun" and most recently, The Lonesome River Band in 2017 on the album Mayhayley's House.

The song can either be sung solo throughout, or with three-part harmony on the chorus.

Yonder Stands Little Maggie

Traditional (ver. Stanley Brothers, 1947)

Key of G, 130 BPM

Chords

	G	G		G	G		F	F		F	F	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Chords (Capo 5th Fret)

	D	D		D	D		C	C		C	C	
	D	D		A	A		D	D		D	D	

Lyrics:

I VII
Over yonder stands little Maggie
I V I
With a dram glass in her hand
She's drinking away her trouble
And a courting some other man

Oh how can I ever stand it
To see them two blue eyes
A shining in the moonlight
Like two diamonds in the sky

Pretty flowers were made for blooming
Pretty stars were made to shine
Pretty women were made for loving
Little Maggie was made for mine

Last time a saw little Maggie
She was sitting on the banks of the sea
With a forty-four around her
And a banjo on her knee

I'm going down to the station
With my suitcase in my hand
I'm a going to leave this country
I'm going to some far and distant land

Go away go away little Maggie
Go and do the best you can
I'll get me another woman
You can get you another man

Notes:

This song comes from the song "Darling Corey," and shares some of the same lyrics. Little Maggie has the distinctive seven chord. It was first recorded by G.B. Grayson – a blind fiddler - and Henry Whitter, a guitar player. Whitter and Grayson were also the first to record "Tom Dooley," "Train 45" and "Handsome Molly." G.B. Grayson died in 1930 from a fall, riding on the running boards of a car. The song was sung in the Appalachian region as early as 1915. Wade Mainer, Zeke Morris and Steve Ledford also recorded this song in 1937.

The Stanley Brothers recorded this at their second session with the company Rich-R-Tone in 1947 – it was released as the B-side (the A-side was "Little Glass of Wine"). Little Maggie would become a signature song for Ralph Stanley's voice. "Little Maggie" was the first song recorded by Bill Monroe with Earl Scruggs and Lester Flatt on the Grande Ole Opry March 23, 1946 (though not their first appearance with Bill on the Grande Ole Opry). It has been recorded and played live by countless bluegrass bands. Typically the song is sung with no harmony.

You Are What I Am

Gordon Lightfoot (ver. J.D. Crowe and the New South 1975)
Key of C, 126 BPM

<u>Chords</u>	<u>Chords (Capo 5th Fret)</u>
Verse	Verse
C C C C D D D D	G G G G A A A A
F F G G C C C C	C C D D G G G G
C C C C D D D D	G G G G A A A A
F F G G C C C C	C C D D G G G G
Chorus	Chorus
F F F F D D D D	C C C C A A A A
D D D D G G G G	A A A A D D D D
C C C C D D D D	G G G G A A A A
F F G G C C C C	C C D D G G G G

Lyrics:

I II
You make time stand still
IV V I
Do it now and you always will
You take me as I am
You make me feel like a brand new man
VI
Every time I fall down
II
I never get stuck
You got the combination gal
V
To get me right back up
I II
You are what I am
IV V I
Loving you forever if I can

Think about the times we've had
We've never been blue
You got the combination gal
To keep me straight and true
You are what I am
Loving you forever if I can

I know I'm lucky too
Without two or three just me and you
'Cos you are what I am
Loving you forever if I can

Chorus

Notes:

Tony Rice was a huge fan of Gordon Lightfoot. Tony would record a number of different Lightfoot songs and adapt them to a more bluegrass flavor over the years. This song though, the original Gordon Lightfoot recording already had quite a bluegrass flavor to it. Larry Good of the Good Brothers played banjo on the song – released in 1972 on the album Old Dan's Records.

J.D. Crowe and the New South brought this song into the bluegrass realm on the self-titled album released by Rounder Records. This album is sometimes referred to as Rounder 0044, or also as the Brown Album. It is a "must have" album for any bluegrass collection.

There is three-part harmony through the majority of the song

You Can Call Me Long Gone

Dave Evans (ver. Dave Evans and River Bend, 1980)
Key of A, 103 BPM

Chords								Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)																	
	A	A		A	D		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	C		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		A	B		E	E		E	E			G	G		G	A		D	D		D	D	
	A	A		A	D		A	A		A	A			G	G		G	C		G	G		G	G	
	A	A		E	E		A	A		A	A			G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV I
They call me long gone I'm leavin' town
II V
Don't try to follow I can't be found
I IV I
I'll take a rainbow and the sunshine too
V I
And the only worry that I have's in the heel of my shoe.

They caught me bummin' in the park one day
You saw me thumbin' on the old highway
Well listen baby I want you to know
That your dear old daddy's got a home everywhere I go.

Well you took my money and my big fine farm
You thought you'd beat me but you didn't by far
Well the big boys got me oh but I got away
And you're gonna miss your dear old daddy some of these days

Chorus

Just need to follow that old black crow
Happy-go-lucky down the road I go
Ain't got no worry ain't got no care
An easy road and a lonesome road is all I share

Chorus twice

Notes:

Dave Evans joined Earl Taylor and the Stoney Mountain Boys in 1968 as a banjo player and harmony singer, but headed back home to Ohio after only a year of playing when his mom passed away. He really made his mark in the bluegrass world when he joined Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers in 1972. In 1978, Dave formed his own band, River Bend recording, touring and writing original music for over a decade. In 1989, his son was attacked and shot by a local group of troublemakers. Dave took matters into his own hands, resulting in a prison sentence of ten years due to an assault charge. While incarcerated, he continued writing music and, once released, continued to record and tour until his retirement from music in 2010. Dave passed away in 2017.

Dave Evans and River Bend recorded "You Can Call Me Long Gone" in 1980 on his album Call Me Long Gone. The Slokan Ramblers recorded their version of the song, "Call Me Long Gone" in 2015 on their album Coffee Creek.

The original song by Dave Evans and River Bend featured no harmony. The Slokan Ramblers added three part harmonies to lines 1, 2 and 4 of the choruses (excluding them on the first chorus).

Your Love is Like a Flower

Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and Everett Lilly (Ver. Flatt and Scruggs, 1953)
Key of Bb, 120 BPM

Chords

	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		F	F	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$		E $\flat$	E $\flat$	
	B $\flat$	B $\flat$		F	F		B $\flat$	B $\flat$		B $\flat$	B $\flat$	

Chords (Capo 3rd Fret)

	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		G	G		D	D		D	D	
	G	G		G	G		C	C		C	C	
	G	G		D	D		G	G		G	G	

Lyrics:

I IV
It was long, long ago in the moonlight
I V
We were sitting on the banks of the stream
I IV
When you whispered so sweetly, I love you
I V I
As the waters murmured a tune

Oh they tell me your love is like a flower
In the springtime blossoms so fair
In the fall when it withers away dear
And they tell me that's the way of your love

I remember the night, little darling
We were talking of days gone by
When you told me you always would love me
That your love for me would never die

Chorus

It was spring when you whispered these words dear
The flowers were all blooming so fair
But today as the snow falls around us
I can see that your love is not there

Chorus

Notes:

Mandolin player Everett Lilly was involved in writing this song (with Lester and Earl). Everett played mandolin with Flatt and Scruggs, and would later join his brother Bea, Tex Logan and Don Stover as The Lilly Brothers.

The song was first recorded on August 30, 1953 and is available on the album "Foggy Mountain Jamboree," released in 1957. Flatt and Scruggs tuned their instruments one semi-tone higher than normal, so Earls' banjo was tuned to G# (to better match Lester's voice). So while this song is in the key of Bb, they would have been playing in A positions. Tony Rice, J.D. Crowe, Doyle Lawson, Bobby Hicks and Todd Phillips also recorded this song on "Bluegrass Album, Vol. 2."

Originally, Flatt and Scruggs sang the chorus as a duo. The Bluegrass Album Band (and many other bands to follow) sang the chorus as a trio.

Your Saddle Is Empty Old Pal

Bill Carlisle (ver. Stanley Brothers, 1968)
Key of F, 63 BPM

Chords	Chords (Capo 5 th Fret)
F F F B $\flat$ F F F F	C C C F C C C C
F F F F B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$ B $\flat$	C C C C F F F F
F F F B $\flat$ F F F F	C C C F C C C C
F F F B $\flat$ F F F F	C C C F C C C C

Lyrics:

I
Dear ol' pinto, you left me last fall
V
Your saddle is hanging, on the bronc-house wall
I
I'll put on my boots, and my ol' sombrero
V I
Tie yippee yi ay, tie yippee yi yo

I'm ridin' the trail, I'm ridin' the trail
Down by the grave, of my ol' pinto
Singing a song, as I ride along
Tie yippee yi yay, tie yippee yi yo

He was my pal, and I loved him so
Tie yippee yi yay, my ol' pinto
Often I think I can see my ol' pal
Walking the trail to the ol' corral

Chorus

Notes:

Bill Carlisle was a country singer through the 30s, 40s and 50s. He was part of the Carlisle Brothers with his brother Cliff, recording songs with Decca, then King Records until his brother Cliff retired in 1950. As a solo artist he also recorded with Mercury Records. Bill was a guitar picker as well as a yodeler. He had significant success with "novelty songs," probably most notably the song "Too Old to Cut the Mustard." In addition to writing this song, which was covered by Ralph Stanley – Bill also wrote the song "Gone Home" which has been recorded by Flatt & Scruggs and Ricky Skaggs.

In Hazel Green Kentucky on October 21, 1966 while onstage with Ralph Stanley, Carter began hemorrhaging and had to leave the stage. Six weeks later on December 1, at the age of 41, Carter Stanley passed away due to cirrhosis of the liver.

On February 7th, 1967, Larry Sparks joined Ralph Stanley to replace the voice of Carter and continued with Ralph to the end of 1969 (replaced by Roy Lee Centers). "Your Saddle Is Empty Old Pal" was originally recorded on the 14th and 15th of February, 1968. At the session was Ralph on banjo, Larry on guitar, Curly Ray Cline on fiddle, Jack Lynch on bass and Frank Wakefield on mandolin. It was originally released as "The Bluegrass Sound of Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys."

However, in 1973 an album was released titled "The Stanley Brothers of Virginia – Vol. 2 (Long Journey Home)" This was recorded in the early 1960s when the Stanley Brothers were between record labels. Johnny Wilbanks ran a used car lot near Baltimore and would hire bluegrass bands to play in his lot. He also ran the small Wango label. The Stanleys recorded three albums of gospel music and this album that featured strictly secular music. It was originally released in a plain white jacket as "John's Country Quartet" (And "John's Gospel Quartet"). Though this song wasn't included on the original release, only on subsequent reissues. It features beautiful crosspicking by George Shuffler.

The song is sung as a duet throughout. "I'm ridin' the trail" is sung as a call and response.