

Tune Tips for 2018 Homework!

Our homework is often referred to as “*Before Midnight*” or “*After Midnight*”. In addition to referring to *when* these tunes are often played, we use this designation to suggest which tunes are fairly straight forward, and which may be more challenging. Advanced players will love the “*After Midnight*” set (some of these are new; some are tunes we want to revive and play more). Beginner & intermediate players may prefer to first focus their attention on the “*Before Midnight*” tunes. Before Midnight tunes will be called more in the general jams.

Before Midnight

Ellin Polka
Frankenstein’s Reel
Highlight Reel
June Apple
Judy and Jim’s Wedding
Kohler’s Hornpipe
Lonesome Fiddle Blues
On the Carpenter’s Porch
Reel de Montreal
Reel Ti Mi
Superfly
Toss the Feathers

After Midnight*

Bonne Humeur
Canards Sinistres (Les)
Cap’n Bud
Dennis the Deep
El Hambo Emborrachado
Harmony in the Chaos
Miss Drummond of Perth’s Favourite Scots Measure
Pierre’s Right Arm
Punch in the Dark
Skipping Stones
Squirrels at Play

Tips to Help Learn Some of the Trickier Individual Tunes

Bonne Humeur* - Be aware that the B part, second ending is crooked - there is an extra measure before the song starts over. Double stops are optional.

Canards Sinistres (Les)* - Simplify however you see fit. Triplets are optional (skip the C). Remember, Eb = D#

Cap’n Bud* - HDulcimers: for chromatics, the downbeats are more important - if it's too fast, just play every other note

Dennis the Deep* - Chord players: "X" is a tacet (stop playing for that beat). The A chords are syncopated - the change is on beat 4 of the first measure (it's also okay if you just play it straight). Violins: the E B Bb pattern is easier in half position (i.e. play E and B with your second finger, Bb with your first). HDulcimers: you can drop the E or the Bb if needed

Ellin Polka - A# = Bb. HDulcimers, if you have a hard time getting to it, you can leave it out or play F# or C#

Frankenstein’s Reel - HDulcimers, if you need to simplify the A part, substitute G for E, and F# for D in the eight note passages

Harmony in the Chaos* - *General*: Two parts, but B part doesn’t repeat; second to last measure is very confusing due to notation/slides; remember that Fb equals E. *HDulcimers*: High Bb missing on many dulcimers (possible sub: G); slides don’t work, so in second to last measure of B part, play F# and B natural instead of Fb and Bb. *Fiddle*: lots of slides on most accidentals; you can always leave out slides and play as notated. Second to last measure, if not playing slides, do the same thing as the dulcimers. If playing slides, slide F to F# and Bb to B.

Highlight Reel - *General*: Tricky rhythm in endings; unusual chords; fast chord changes. *HDulcimers*: Key is a bit awkward due to F#m in low A box (some won’t have this, so play up an octave if needed). Can substitute E for the high G#. Guitars: second line is easier if you play the first D as a bar chord, and if you have to you could substitute A for the C#m chords

Judy & Jim’s Wedding - Chord players can play regular minors for the 7th chords if they prefer

Lonesome Fiddle Blues - For the B part, melody players feel free to improvise with the chords - the written music is just a guideline for people who prefer not to do improve. Be aware the tune is played AABA, and the final A is played up an octave.

Miss Drummond OPFSM* - Simplify as needed. Remember, Eb = D#

On the Carpenter’s Porch - If you don't want to play double stops, just play the top note. Also, feel free to use a different note in the chord for the double stops if it's easier for your instrument.

Punch in the Dark* - HDulcimers can substitute E or B for the high G#s, or just skip them.

Reel Ti Mi - If you don't want to do the triplets; in measure 2 drop the 3rd note of the triplets; in the endings drop middle note

Reel de Montreal - HDulcimers, if you don't have the D# you can substitute F# (or, honestly, just play the D twice)

Skipping Stones* - HDulcimers who don't have the high G# can leave it out, or sub E or B. Chord players can sub F#m, or F#m7 for the F#m9

We’re always happy to help! Email lekaiser@comcast.net and Lynne Ellen will direct your question to a mentor for your instrument. www.squirrelsnestlive.com/homework.php

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