

Tune Tips for 2020 Homework!

For 2020, we decided to look back over the last eight years of homework and focus on some really great tunes that didn't get played... and make them happen for this year! We also looked at some tunes that *almost* made it to our repertoire, but didn't quite get enough play time. So, we have our regular homework... and our "Call Them Back" tune list. In the 2020 homework are three tunes that have not been previously played as homework (marked with *). All the rest have been assigned homework. All "Call Them Back" tunes have been played as homework.

2020 Homework

Ancient Brass* (E modal/A)
Eli Green's Cakewalk (Em)
Harmony in the Chaos (G)
Kohler's Hornpipe (D)
Moon and Seven Stars (D)
Punch in the Dark (A)
Sevens (Em)
Shenandoah Falls* (A)
Through the Gates (D)
Tune for Sharon (F)
Walking Off the Eggnog* (D)
**new, never in homework before*

Call Them Back Tunes!

Corryvreckan Waltz (A)
Ellin Polka (Bm)
Fisher's Hornpipe (D)
Four Posts of the Bed (A/C)
Frankenstein's Reel (Em)
Hand of Fu Manchu (Em)
Judy and Jim's Wedding (D)
June Apple (A modal)
(La) Maison de Glace (D)
Skipping Stones (A)
Squirrels at Play (Am)
Superfly (Bm)

Tips to Help Learn Some of the Trickier Individual Tunes

Ancient Brass* - Dulcimers without D# can sub F# or B.

Corryvreckan Waltz - It is a waltz; it's written in 9/8 so that the swing rhythm is actually notated. Dulcimers without a high G# may substitute E or B, and without a high C# may substitute F#. Dulcimers may want to play some or all of the B part down an octave.

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

Four Posts of the Bed - General: Note B part does NOT repeat.

Frankenstein's Reel - HDulcimers, if you want to simplify the A part, substitute G for E, and F# for D in the eighth 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 = 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: optional slides on most accidentals (slide from below into the written note). 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.

Judy and Jim's Wedding - Chord players can play regular minors for the minor 7th chords if they prefer.

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

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.

Superfly - Some chords are written in the B part to help chord players track when to change or not change. Not every written chord in the B part is a change, they're there to help with the syncopation.

Walking Off the Eggnog* - You can play the high D down an octave. Note: this song is meant to be played SLOWLY.

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

2020 Squirrels' Nest Tunes

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