

Tunes and Friends, Old and New

As we were learning tunes from old-time fiddlers in Missouri in the 1970s the revival and migration west of contra-dancing enabled many of our generation to play for dances on a regular basis. This revival has spawned a wealth of new tunes which also have migrated to jam sessions across the country. A traditional community in its own right, Carp Camp annually sorts through their catch for its homework lists, mixing fun tunes of different styles and regions. In between the sets and laughter some tunes can hitch a ride on their journey with the fine players who drive the jam. Gratitude and admiration are due Dave Firestine for his gracious captaining of this musical, social and riotously good time. We made this recording in memory of the late Gary Libman, clarinet player and Cathy's banjo buddy who brought some great Jewish music and an endless list of wise cracks to the group.

1. Eddie's Reel/Ice on the Road/Easy Club

Cathy – hammered dulcimer, banjo, Dave – guitar, Lauralyn – fiddle, Kevin Hennessy - bass

The fiddle repertoire in our neck of Missouri has some affinities for Canadian tunes. The first tune is traditional; the second is by Graham Townsend, of Ontario. We learned both from Graham after meeting him in Nashville. The third is from Jim Sutherland of the Scottish band by the same name.

2. Come, Love, Come/Vladimir's Steamboat

Same as above with Cathy, Dave and Lauralyn – vocals

The first song was born, or at least bred in 19th century minstrelsy and published in 1851 as “Nancy Till.” Crossing the ocean, it appeared in other places like Northumbrian pipe tune books. Our version is from Jeff Warner through Sandy Paton in which “the old banjo” becomes steamboat “the old *Ben Joe*.” The second tune, a Carp Camp favorite which Gary Libman liked to call “Putin on the Ritz,” is by Jay Ungar who recorded it with Fiddle Fever in 1984 and is published by Swinging Door Music.

3. Rachel/Problem Solved

Cathy, Dave and Mike Black - mandolin

We often played the first, very well-known tune in Missouri with our dear mentor Taylor McBaine and with the Little Dixie Hoss-Hair Pullers as “Texas Quickstep.” Mike and Dayle Black wrote the second tune. Dave loans the chords to “Rachel,” hopefully not in a problematic way.

4. Grande Chaine/Hommage a' Edmond Pariso/Reel de Montebello/Reel Saint-Antoine

Cathy and Dave with Alice Boyle – fiddle, Dave Firestine – mandolin, Robert Rosenberg – guitar, Claire Zucker – feet and bohran

A pack of French Canadian tunes, Quebec fiddler Richard Forest wrote the third; the others are traditional.

5. Josefin's Dopvals

Cathy and Dave with Scott and Christina McLewin – fiddles

A waltz written by Roger Tallroth of Sweden for the christening of a friend's daughter.

6. Skippin' On the Mississippi Dew

Cathy with Dave - jaw harp

Missouri fiddle music had a strong influence on St. Louis native John Hartford, and he had quite the impact on Missouri musicians as well. We spent time and tune with him here in Missouri, in Nashville and aboard the steamboat *Delta Queen*.

7. Porthole of the Kelp/Tamlin/Hi, Ho, Rattling Bog

Dave, Cathy, Alice – viola and fiddle, Robert, Claire and Dave Firestone

The first was written by Bobby Casey, of County Clare, the second is attributed to Davey Arthur, of Dublin, and the third is the popular song that Cathy's dulcimer hero, Bill Spence, threw into a dance we played with him many years ago.

8. Bear Creek Hop/Road to Malvern

Cathy and Dave with Bob and Melissa Atchison – fiddle and guitar

The first is a tune we all played with Buddy Lancaster in Mountain View, Ark., in the 1970s. Bob recently learned the second by Virginia fiddler Jim Childress who wrote it in 2004.

9. Didn't I Dance/A&E Waltz

Same as above

We learned and recorded the song by Lori Holland with Sandy and Caroline Paton in 1987 and have sung it ever since. In addition to a distinctive vibrato, Sandy always seemed to sing with a smile. This is also the only song we ever performed with Dave's mother. The waltz was one of Taylor McBaine's tunes. Popular among Canadian and Missouri fiddlers, it has been attributed to Rusty Modrell, of Oregon.

10. Washer Woman/Bell Cow/Kerry Shuffle

Dave and Cathy, Kevin, and Mike Black

We submitted the first two for the 2013 homework. The first is a variant in 2/4 of the iconic Irish jig that we learned in Mississippi from the old time band The Sofa Cats. It was recorded in the 1970s by East Tennessee fiddler Blaine Smith. Garry Harrison, of the Indian Creek Delta Boys, collected the second from Pappy Taylor in Illinois. The third is by Rob Pine of Sandia Park, N. M.

11. Superfly

Dave, Cathy, Lauralyn and Kevin

Kevin O’Neill is a flute player from Rutherglen by Glasgow and played this tune with The Treacherous Orchestra. It was in the 2015 Carp Camp homework. When someone in the Carp jam yells out, “Spank it,” it is a call for an increase in intensity rather than the type of ending we employ here.

12. Accordion Crimes/Up Downey

Dave, Cathy, Lauralyn with Kathy Gordon – bass

Andrew Marcus, of Washington, D.C., reportedly wrote the first tune shortly before his accordion was stolen. The second is by Tola Custy from County Clare. Dave Firestine knows Dave Para will stop whatever he’s doing – even talking – to play “Accordion Crimes,” and dulcimer player Tena Guegler just loves it and can play it any old way and back.

13. O, My Little Darling/Ladies on the Green

Dave, Cathy, Kevin, Mike Fraser and Tenley – guitar

Thaddeus Willingham recorded the traditional song in 1939 for the Library of Congress. Legendary Missouri fiddler Cyril Stinnett played the second.

14. Ebb and Flow

Dave, Cathy, Scott and Christina

A tune by Carl Jones; we have been misled to believe the title was short for Ebenezer and Florence, but no. Everybody’s a jokester at Carp Camp; when they’re not playing, they’re usually laughing.

15. Growling Old Man, Cackling Old Woman/The Zipper

Cathy, Dave, Scott, Christina, Kevin with Mike Fraser – fiddle, Tenley Hansen, piano

The first is a French Canadian tune we probably learned decades ago in Missouri from Charlie Walden. The second, a Carp Camp favorite is by James Shultz, who named it after a sister’s eventful trip on the carnival ride.

16. Pretty Betty Martin/Chinquapin Huntin’

Dave, Cathy, Lauralyn and Kathy

The first tune is from Garry Harrison and the Indian Creek Delta Boys. We have been playing their tunes ever since we met in the 1970s. We have played the second tune in jam sessions elsewhere, but Carp Camp is where we focused on it, probably because both tunes are some of Lauralyn’s favorites.

17. Oak Ridge Stomp/Raivlin Reel/Cloud Nine

Dave, Cathy, Alice, Robert, Claire and Dave Firestine

Nile Wilson, of Bucklin, Mo., played the first tune; Barbara McOwen, of Glasgow, Scotland, wrote the second, and Rodney Miller wrote the third.

Cathy Barton — hammered dulcimer, banjo; Dave Para — guitar; with Carp Camp Pals Lauralyn Bodle, Alice Boyle, Bob Atchison, Mike Fraser, Scott and Christina McLewin—fiddle, viola; Dave Firestine, Mike Black and Mike Fraser—mandolin; Robert Rosenberg, Melissa Atchison and Tenley Hansen—guitar, piano; Claire Zucker — feet and drum; and Kevin Hennessy and Kathy Gordon—bass;

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