



ARRANGING (DO-IT-YOURSELF)

Here is a tune I learned when I first started playing dulcimer. It should be played slow and irregular. For me, basic arranging includes drones, harmony and octave changes. Here are a few ideas to try when making your own arrangement. When you arrange a tune yourself it fits your style, your ability and the occasion for which you are playing.

1. Drone on an A for most of the tune but go to a G or B when the melody goes to a B or G as in measures 6, 15 and 22. Play the drone note at the same time as the melody note, as a flam before or after the melody note, as a roll with the melody note, or alternate drone and melody notes.

2. Harmony. Play the third or sixth below the melody note with the melody note. Play an arpeggio of 1-3-5-8 where the 8 is the melody note. This tune can be interpreted as a D tune or as an A tune. Play the harmony both ways and see which one you like. Also, the A chord can be minor sometimes to good effect.

3. Change octaves. This is one of the most important embellishments in dulcimer arranging. Change octaves of the drones, harmony and melody. Get the whole dulcimer singing.

Rick Fogel

MODEST AND BRIGHT EILEEN O'CAROL

Arr. for Hammer Dulcimer
by Rick Fogel

Traditional

Dulcimer

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