

Pretty Shaky String Band
Chord Book 2026
East Lansing, Michigan



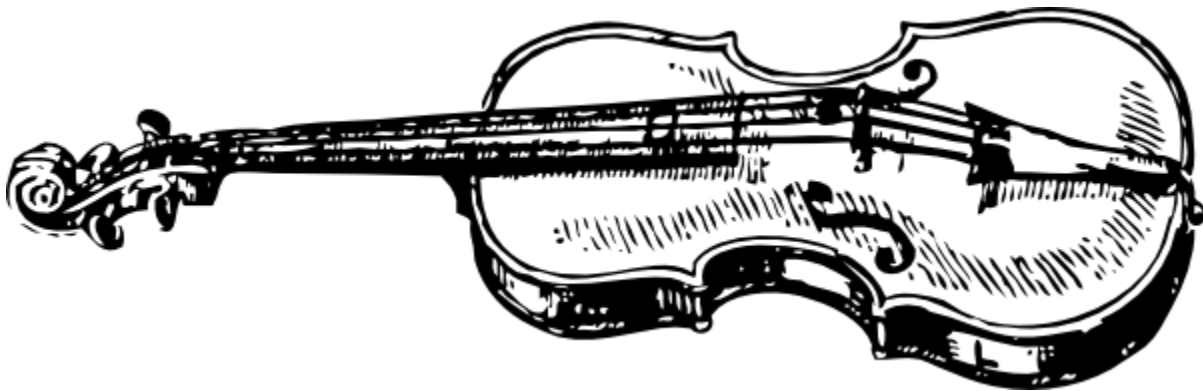
Compiled and Designed by
Kathleen A. Clifford

This Book Belongs To



Pretty Shaky String Band Chord Book

Table of Contents..... 1
Disclaimers..... 2
Special Thank Yous..... 3
Once a Shaky 4
Pretty Shaky String Band History... 5
Alphabetical List of Tunes..... 7
Tunes by Key.....10
Tune Charts..... 13 – 57
Shakys in Action..... 58 – 88
Bibliography..... 89
To Be Continued..... 90



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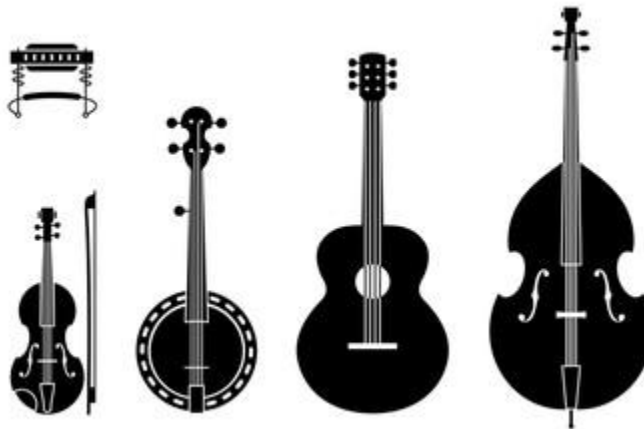
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If an original artist would like their tune removed please let us know and it will be omitted immediately.

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SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

Thank you Shakys for all your advice, encouragement and assistance. You made me feel welcomed as a beginner mandolin player. Likewise,

**Bath Market Minstrels and
Woldumar Bluegrass Jam members.**

A heartfelt thanks to The Peoples Church of East Lansing for providing such a wonderful setting for our gatherings.

Last, but not least, Stan and Lily Werbin of Elderly Instruments for your vision and decades of inspiration. Visit our Elderly Instruments friends online at: elderly.com

Kathleen Clifford



“Once a Shaky...Always a Shaky”



Logo design by Kate Darnell

PRETTY SHAKY STRING BAND

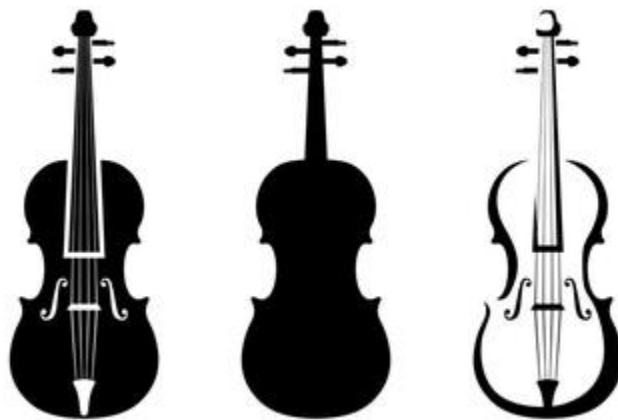
May 2026

A Little History of the Pretty Shaky String Band

The Pretty Shaky String Band is an open jam session originating in East Lansing, MI circa 50 years ago. At that time, Elderly Instruments was young and located downtown across from the Michigan State University campus. The Pretty Shaky String Band arose out of that community. They and all who would follow would meet every Wednesday at 7pm for the next five decades. The Pretty Shaky String Band is indeed an institution. In 2023, they received the Michigan Heritage Award from the Michigan Traditional Arts Program at MSU. Many of Michigan's finest folk musicians are Shaky alumni.

Primarily an Old Time folk music jam, Shakys also perform at various events around the community. The Shakys are a friendly and laid-back group. They follow a round robin format so everyone gets a chance to pick a tune.

If you are looking for an Old Time jam in mid-Michigan, players and listeners are always welcome. The Shakys currently meet at The Peoples Church in downtown East Lansing at 200 W. Grand River, E. Lansing, MI 48823. A Shaky website with upcoming events, tune lists, and chord charts is available at: theprettyshakystringband.com





Alphabetical List of Tunes

- 1) Angelina Baker (D)
- 2) Arkansas Traveler (D)
- 3) Ashokan Farewell (D) Jay Unger & Molly Mason
- 4) Auger in the Ditch (G)
- 5) Avalon Quick Step (D)
- 6) Barlow Knife (G)
- 7) Big Scioty (G)
- 8) Billy in the Lowground (C)
- 9) Blackberry Blossom (G)
- 10) Briarpicker Brown (D)
- 11) Bug in the Taters (D)
- 12) Camp Meeting on the Fourth of July (D)
- 13) Cherokee Lady (D)
- 14) Cherokee Shuffle (A)
- 15) Cherokee Shuffle (D)
- 16) Chinese Breakdown (D)
- 17) Colored Aristocracy (G)
- 18) Cora Dye (G)
- 19) Crooked Stovepipe (G)
- 20) Crow Creek (A)
- 21) Cuffy (G)
- 22) Cumberland Gap (D)
- 23) Don Tremaine's Reel (D)
- 24) Eighth of January (D)
- 25) Emma's Pride (D) Emma Warner
- 26) Five Miles from Town (D)
- 27) Flop-Eared Mule (D/A)
- 28) Flowers of Edinburgh (G)



Alphabetical List of Tunes Continued

- 29) Forked Deer (D)
- 30) Girl I left Behind Me (G)
- 31) Grasshopper Sitting on a Sweet Potato Vine (D)
- 32) Green Leaf Fancy (G) Norman Blake
- 33) Hangman's Reel (A)
- 34) Indian Corn (G)
- 35) Jeff City (G)
- 36) Jimmy in the Swamp (G)
- 37) Johnny, Johnny Don't Get Drunk (D)
- 38) Julie Ann Johnson (D)
- 39) Jumpin' Toothache (G)
- 40) L & N Rag (C)
- 41) Levi Jackson Rag (G) Pinewoods Pat Shaw
- 42) Levi Jackson Rag (G) Barnes Book Pat Shaw
- 43) Liberty (D)
- 44) Little Billy Wilson (A)
- 45) Little Dutch Girl (A)
- 46) Lost in the Woods (G) Mike Ross
- 47) Magpie (G)
- 48) March of St. Timothy (G) Judi Morningstar
- 49) Michigan Pioneer (D)
- 50) Midnight on the Water (D)
- 51) Mississippi Sawyer (D)
- 52) Moon Behind the Hill (G)
- 53) Mr. Chubbs' Waltz (G) Nick Rowse
- 54) Nail That Catfish to the Tree (G) Steve Rosen
- 55) Nixon's Farewell (D) Curtis Bouterse



Alphabetical List of Tunes Continued

- 56) Old Chattanooga (G)
- 57) Over the Waterfall (D)
- 58) Pig Ankle Rag (D)
- 59) Puncheon Floor (G/D)
- 60) Quince Dillon's High D (D)
- 61) Ragtime Annie (D/G)
- 62) Red Wing (G)
- 63) Rock the Cradle Joe (D)
- 64) Roscoe (G)
- 65) Round the Horn (G) Portland Collection Jay Unger
- 66) Round the Horn (G) Jay Unger
- 67) Sadie at the Back Door (D) Jere Canote
- 68) Sarah Armstrong (D)
- 69) Seneca Square Dance (Waiting for the Federals) (G)
- 70) Shenandoah Falls (A)
- 71) Shove That Pig's Foot a Little Further in the Fire (G)
- 72) Shuffle About (D)
- 73) Snake River Reel (D) Portland Collection Peter Lippincott
- 74) Snake River Reel (D) Peter Lippincott
- 75) Soldier's Joy (D)
- 76) Spotted Pony (D)
- 77) Springfield (D) Erynn Marshall
- 78) St. Anne's Reel (D)
- 79) Sweet Bundy (D)
- 80) Ten Strike (C)
- 81) Tombigbee Waltz (G)
- 82) Walkin' Uptown (D)
- 83) West Fork Gals (D)
- 84) Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)



Tunes by Key

A

Cherokee Shuffle (A)
Crow Creek (A)
Hangman's Reel (A)
Little Billy Wilson (A)
Little Dutch Girl (A)
Shenandoah Falls (A)

C

Billy in the Lowground (C)
L & N Rag (C)
Ten Strike (C)

D

Angelina Baker (D)
Arkansas Traveler (D)
Ashokan Farewell (D) Jay Unger & Molly Mason
Avalon Quickstep (D)
Briarpicker Brown (D)
Bug in the Taters (D)
Camp Meeting on the Fourth of July (D)
Cherokee Lady (D)
Cherokee Shuffle (D)
Chinese Breakdown (D)
Cumberland Gap (D)
Don Tremaine's Reel (D)
Eighth of January (D)
Emma's Pride (D) Emma Warner
Five Miles from Town (D)
Flop-Eared Mule (D/A)
Forked Deer (D)
Grasshopper Sitting on a Sweet Potato Vine (D)
Johnny, Johnny Don't Get Drunk (D)
Julie Ann Johnson (D)
Liberty (D)



Tunes by Key Continued

D

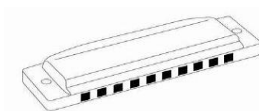
- Michigan Pioneer (D)
- Midnight on the Water (D)
- Mississippi Sawyer (D)
- Nixon's Farewell (D) Curtis Bouterse
- Over the Waterfall (D)
- Pig Ankle Rag (D)
- Quince Dillon's High D (D)
- Ragtime Annie (D/G)
- Rock the Cradle Joe (D)
- Sadie at the Back Door (D) Jere Canote
- Sarah Armstrong (D)
- Shuffle About (D)
- Snake River Reel (D) Peter Lippincott
- Soldier's Joy (D)
- Spotted Pony (D)
- Springfield (D) Erynn Marshall
- St. Anne's Reel (D)
- Sweet Bundy (D)
- Walkin' Uptown (D)
- West Fork Gals (D)
- Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)



Tunes by Key Continued

G

- Auger in the Ditch (G)
- Barlow Knife (G)
- Big Scioty (G)
- Blackberry Blossom (G)
- Colored Aristocracy (G)
- Cora Dye (G)
- Crooked Stovepipe (G)
- Cuffy (G)
- Flowers of Edinburgh (G)
- Girl I Left Behind Me (G)
- Green Leaf Fancy (G) Norman Blake
- Indian Corn (G)
- Jeff City (G)
- Jimmy in the Swamp (G)
- Jumpin' Toothache (G)
- Levi Jackson Rag (G) Pat Shaw
- Lost in the Woods (G) Mike Ross
- Magpie (G)
- March of St. Timothy (G) Judi Morningstar
- Moon Behind the Hill (G)
- Mr. Chubbs' Waltz (G) Nick Rowse
- Nail That Catfish to the Tree (G) Steve Rosen
- Old Chattanooga (G)
- Puncheon Floor (G/D)
- Red Wing (G)
- Roscoe (G)
- Round the Horn (G) Jay Unger
- Seneca Square Dance (Waiting for the Federals) (G)
- Shove That Pig's Foot a Little Further in the Fire (G)
- Tombigbee Waltz (G)



Angelina Baker (D)

A

D DG D DAD x2
IIII II II III I I II

B

D DG D DAD x2
IIII II II III I I II

Arkansas Traveler (D)

A

DGAD A DGAD DGAD x2
I I I I III I I I I I I I

B

DGDA DADA DGDA DGAD x2
I I I I I I I I I I I I

Ashokan Farewell (D)
Jay Unger & Molly Mason

A **D D7 G Em D Bm G A**
 III III III III III III III III
 D D7 G Em D Bm A D
 III III III III III III III III

B **D D7 G D D G/B A A7**
 III III III III III III III III
 D C G D D Bm A7sus4 A7 D
 III III III III III III II I III

Auger in the Ditch (G)

A

G CGD G CGDG **x2**
 IIII I I II III I I I I

B

G Em (C) GDG GDG
 IIII II II II I I II I I
 GDG GDG
 II I I II I I

Avalon Quick Step (D)

A

D DA D GAD x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

B

DG D DGA DD G D D GAD x2
II I I III I III I I II I I II

Barlow Knife (G)

A

GDG GDCG x2
I III I I I I

B

CGCG CGDG x2
I I I I I I I I

C

DGDG DGDG x2
I I I I I I I I

Big Scioty (G)

A

G G G C D G x2
IIII IIII II II III I

B

G D D Em Em C D G x2
II II II II II II IIII

Billy in the Lowground (C)

A

C Am C Am G C x2
IIII IIII IIII II I I

B

C F C Am G C x2
IIII IIII IIII II I I

Blackberry Blossom (G)

A

G D C G C G A D x2
I I I I I I I I
G D C G C G D G
I I I I I I I I

B

Em Em B7 Em C D G x2
IIII II II IIII II I I

Briarpicker Brown (D)

A

D D G A D D G A D x2
IIII I I II IIII I I I I

B

D G D A D G A A D x2
II II II II II II III I I

Cherokee Lady (D)

A

D C A D
|||| |||| |||| ||||

x2

B

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



© David Husic

Cherokee Shuffle (A)

A

A A F#m D A A E A x2
IIII II II II II I I II

B

D A D A D A A F#m D E A x2
II II II II IIII II II I I II

Cherokee Shuffle (D)

A

D D Bm G D D Bm G A D x2
IIII II II II II II II I I II

B

G D G D G D D Bm G A D x2
II II II II IIII II II I I II

Chinese Breakdown (D)

A

D DA A AD D DG A AD
IIII IIII IIII IIII IIII II II IIII IIII

B

D DA A AD D DG A AD
IIII IIII IIII IIII IIII II II IIII IIII

Colored Aristocracy (G)

A

G GEm CG AD
IIII II II IIII IIII
G GEm CG DG
IIII II II IIII IIII

B

G Em Em G CG AD
II II II II II II II II
G Em Em G CG DG
II II II II II II II II

Cora Dye (G)

A

G D G D G G C D G **x2**
IIII II I I IIII IIII

B

G C A D G C D G **x2**
IIII IIII II II II II

Crooked Stovepipe (G)

A

G G D D D G **x2**
IIII II II IIII II II

B

G G D C D D G **x2**
IIII IIII IIII II II

Crow Creek (A)

A

A A E A A E A x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

B

A D A E A D A E A x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

Cuffy (G)

A

G D G D G x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

B

G C G D G x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

Eighth of January (D)

A

D G A D

x2

II II II II

B

x2

D D A D

IIII II I I

Emma's Pride (D)

Emma Warner

A

D G D A D G A D

x2

II II II II IIII II II

B

D G A D A D G A D A D

x2

I I II III I I II I I II

Five Miles from Town (D)

A D D D A D
 IIII I II I II
 D Bm G A D
 IIII IIII II I II
 D D D A D
 IIII I II I II
 D Bm G A D
 IIII IIII II I I

B D DAD D DAD
 IIII II I I IIII II I I
 Bm GAD
 IIII II I I
 D DAD D DAD
 IIII II I I IIII II I I
 Bm G A D
 IIII II I II

Flop-Eared Mule (D/A)

A D AD D AD x2
 IIII II II IIII II II

B A EA A EA
 IIII II II IIII II II
 A EA A EAA7
 IIII II II IIII III I

Flowers of Edinburgh (G)

A

G D GC DG x2
IIII IIII III I II II

B

G D CEm GC DG x2
II II II II III II II

Forked Deer (D)

A

DG DGA DG DGAD x2
II II III I II II I I I I

B

A AD A DGAD x2
IIII II II III I I I I

Girl I Left Behind Me (G)

A

G C G D G C D G x2
II II III III III

B

G G D G C D G x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

Grasshopper Sitting on a Sweet Potato Vine (D)

A

D G D D G A D x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

B

A D G D A D G A D x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

Green Leaf Fancy (G)
Norman Blake

A

G C G G D G G C G C G D G x2
II II III I III I I I I I

B

G Em C G G A D G Em C G
I I I I III I I I I I
Em/B C A/C# D G D G C D G
I I I II II I I I I

Hangman's Reel (A)

A A A E A A E A x2

IIII IIII IIII IIII

B A E A E A A E A E A x1

IIII IIII IIII IIII

C E E A E E A x1

IIII IIII IIII IIII

D A D A D A D A E A D A D A E A x2

I I I I I I I I I I I I I I

Indian Corn (G)

A

G C G D G C D G x2
II II III III III I

B

G C G A D G C G D G x2
III II I I III II I I

Jeff City (G)

A

G G D G G D G x2
III III I III II I I

B

G C D G C D G x2
III II II III II I I

Jimmy in the Swamp (G)

A

G GAD G CDG x2
IIII II I I IIII II I I

B

Em Em B7 Em CDG x2
IIII II II IIII II I I

Johnny, Johnny Don't Get Drunk (D)

A

D GA D GAD x2
IIII II II IIII II I I

B

D GA D GAD x2
IIII II II IIII II I I

Julie Ann Johnson (D)

A

D DA D DAD x2
IIII II II III I I II

B

G GD G DAD x2
IIII II II III I I II

Jumpin' Toothache (G)

A

G GD GDG GDG x2
IIII II II I I II II I I

B

G D G DG x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

L & N Rag (C)

A

C F C DG C F x2
III III III II II III III
F Adim7 CA DG C
I I II I I II

B

C C F C C D7G C C FE7 x2
III I III III I II II III I II II
F Adim7 CA DGC
I I II I II



Photo Courtesy of Elderly Instruments

Levi Jackson Rag (G)

Pat Shaw

(Pat Shaw's Pinewoods: Between Two Ponds and Among the Pines)

A

D7 G D7 G Bb Am D7
I III I IIII IIII II II
G C G E7 A7 D7 G G7
IIII IIII I I I I III I

B

C Am E C#m E A7
IIII IIII IIII IIII II II
D D7 G E7 A7 D7 G C G
II II I I I I I I II

Levi Jackson Rag (G)

Pat Shaw

(The Barnes Book of English Country Dance Tunes)

A

G C D G Bb D
II I I IIII IIII IIII
G C G C D G
IIII IIII II I I IIII

B

C Am E C#m
IIII IIII IIII IIII
EA D GEAD G
II II IIII I I I I IIII

Liberty (D)

A

D G D AD x2
IIII IIII IIII IIII

B

D DA D GAD x2
IIII IIII IIII IIII

Little Billy Wilson (A)

A AD E AD E A x2
IIII IIII IIII IIII

B A E E A A E E A x2
III I III I III I III I

C A D A E BmD ADEA x2
II II IIII IIII IIII IIII

Little Dutch Girl (A)

A

A AE A AEA **x2**
IIII II II III I I II

B

A AE DA AEA **x2**
IIII III II II I I II



Photo Courtesy of Pretty Shaky String Band

Lost in the Woods (G)

Mike Ross

A **G D G G D G A D G**
 II I I II I I IIII IIII

B **Am D G E7 G Am**
 IIII II II IIII II II

C **Am G Em7 D C D7 G**
 IIII II II III I II II

D **C G7 D A7 D**
 III I IIII IIIIII II



© *Pooh Stevenson*

Magpie (G)

A

G D G G D G x2
IIII II II IIII II II

B

G C D G C D G x2
IIII II II IIII I I II

March of St. Timothy (G)

Judi Morningstar

A G D7 Em Bm C G Am D7

II II II II II II II II

G D7 Em Bm C G D7 G

II II II II II II II II

B D7 G D7 G (Rest)

IIII IIII IIII I (2,3,4)

D7 G C G Em Am D7 G

IIII IIII II I I I I II

Michigan Pioneer_(D)

A

D DA A A D **x2**
IIII II II IIII II II

B

D DA A A D **x2**
IIII II II IIII II II

Midnight on the Water (D)

A

D D D D D G D A D **x2**
III III III III II I III III III

B

D D D D Em Em Bm Bm **x2**
III III III III III III III III
G G D D D G D A D
III III III III II I III III III

Mississippi Sawyer (D)

A

D G D A D x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

B

D A D A D x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

Moon Behind the Hill (G)

A

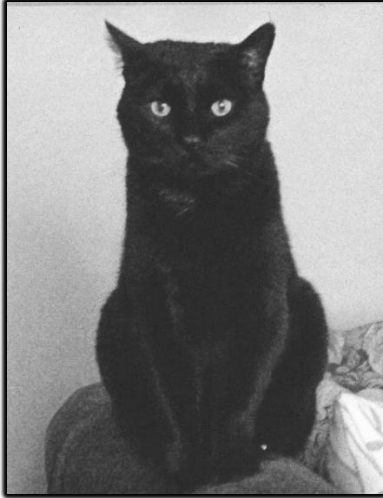
G G D D G
IIII IIII IIII II II
G G C G D G
IIII IIII II II II II

B

G G D D
IIII IIII IIII IIII
G G C G D G
IIII IIII II II II II

Mr. Chubbs' Waltz (G)

Nick Rowse



In Loving Memory of Mr. Chubbs



Photos Courtesy of Nick Rowse

A G G C C G G D D
III III III III III III III III
G G C C G D G G
III III III III III III III III

B C C Em G G G D D
III III III III III III III III
C C Em G G D G G
III III III III III III III III

Nail That Catfish to the Tree (G)

Steve Rosen

A

G D G DG x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

B

C D C DG x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

Nixon's Farewell (D)

Curtis Bouterse

A

DG DA DG DAD x2
II II IIII IIII I I II

B

DGDA DA x2
I I I I II II
DGDA DAD
I I I I I I II

Old Chattanooga (G)

A

G G C G D G x2
IIII II II IIII II II

B

G G C G D G x2
IIII II II IIII IIII

Over the Waterfall (D)

A

DAD DAD DAD CG x2
IIII III III III IIII

B

DGD DAD DGD DAD x2
IIII III III IIII

Pig Ankle Rag (D)

(Arranged by Les Raber and Bud Pierce)

A

A7 D G D A7 D G D
IIII I I II III I I II
G D B7 E7 A7 D
II I I I I II

B

A7 D G D A7 D B7 E7 A7
IIII I I II III I I I I
A7 D G D G D B7 E7 A7 D
IIII I I II II I I I I II

Puncheon Floor (G/D)

A

G G D G G D G x2
IIII III I III I I II

B

D G D A D A D A x2
I I I I I I I I
D G D A D A D
I I I I I I I I

Quince Dillon's High D (D)

A

D A D D AD x2
IIII III I III II II

B

D C D AD x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

Ragtime Annie (D/G)

A

D DA A AD x2
IIII IIII IIII IIII

B

D DG A AD
IIII IIII IIII IIII
D DCG GD ADC
IIII I I II II II II I I

C

GC DG GC DG x2
II II IIII II II IIII

Red Wing (G)

(Arranged by Les Raber and Bud Pierce)

A

G CG CG A7 D

IIII II II II II II II

G CG CG A7 D G

IIII II II II II I I II

B

C G D G

x2

IIII IIII IIII IIII

Rock the Cradle Joe (D)

A

D D GD A D

x2

IIII IIII II II II II

B

A D G D AD GAD

x2

II II II II III I I II

Roscoe (G)

A

G G D G C D G x2
III II II II II II

B

G C G D G C G D G x2
II II II II III I II



© Mark Eifert

Round the Horn (G)

Jay Unger

(Portland Collection)

A

G CD Em DC Am Em x2
III III I I II II II

B

CG Am Bm CG D Em x2
II II II II III II II

Round the Horn (G)

Jay Unger

A

G CD GDCG DG Em x2
III III I I I I I I II

B

CG DG CG DG Em x2
II II II II II II I I II

Sadie at the Back Door (D)

Jere Canote

A

D D C D C G A D x2
IIII II II II I I II II

B

D C D D C G A D x2
IIII II II II I I III I

Sarah Armstrong (D)

A

DGD ADA DGD AD x2
I I II I I II I I II III I

B

DA GD DA GD x2
II II II II III II II

Seneca Square Dance (G)
(A.K.A. Waiting for the Federals)

A

G G C G DG x2
IIII II II IIII II II

B

G GEm CG DG x2
IIII II II II II II II

Shenandoah Falls (A)

A

A D AE AD AEA x2
III I IIII IIII I I II

B

Bm A Bm AE A x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

**Shove That Pig's Foot a Little
Further in the Fire (G)**

A

G C G D G C D G x2
II II III III II II

B

G C G D G C D G x2
II II III II II III

Shuffle About (D)

A

DA GA DA GA x2
II II III III III

B

D A D AD x2
IIII III III III I

Snake River Reel (D)

Peter Lippincott

(Portland Collection)

A

DA D DA DAD x2
II II IIII II II I I II

B

CGD CGD CGD DAD x2
I I II I I II I I II I I II

Snake River Reel (D)

Peter Lippincott

A

DG DA DG DAD x2
II II II II II II I I II

B

CGD CGD CGD AD x2
I I II I I II I I II II II

Soldier's Joy (D)

A

D DA D DAD x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

B

DG DA DG DAD x2
II II IIII II II I I II

Spotted Pony (D)

A

DADG DA DADG DAD x2
I I I I IIII I I I I II I I

B

DG DA DG DAD x2
II II II II II II II I I

Springfield (D)
Erynn Marshall

A

DA GD DA GAD x2
II II III III I I II

B

GD AD GD AD x2
II II III II II II II

St. Anne's Reel (D)

A

D GD D GAD x2
III II II III I I II

B

D Em AD Bm G AD x2
II II II II II II III

Sweet Bundy (D)

A

D G D A7 D x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

B

D G A7 D G A7 D x2
II II IIII II II III I

Ten Strike (C)

A

C G C G C x2
IIII IIII IIII II II

B

Am G F C G C x2
IIII IIII IIII IIII

Tombigbee Waltz (G)

A

G G G G

III III III III

D D C G

x2

III III III III

B

G G C G

III III III III

D D C G

x2

III III III III

Walkin' Uptown (D)

A

D GD D EA

IIII II II III II II

D GD D AD

IIII II II III II II

B

DD7 GD D EA

II II III III III

D GD D AD

IIII II II III III

West Fork Gals (D)

A

D G A D G A D x2
II II IIII II II III I

B

D A A D A D x2
IIII IIII IIII I I II

Whiskey Before Breakfast (D)

A

D G D A D G D A D x2
IIII I I II III I I I I

B

D Em A D A G D G D A D` x2
IIII II II I I I I I I I I

Shakys in Action



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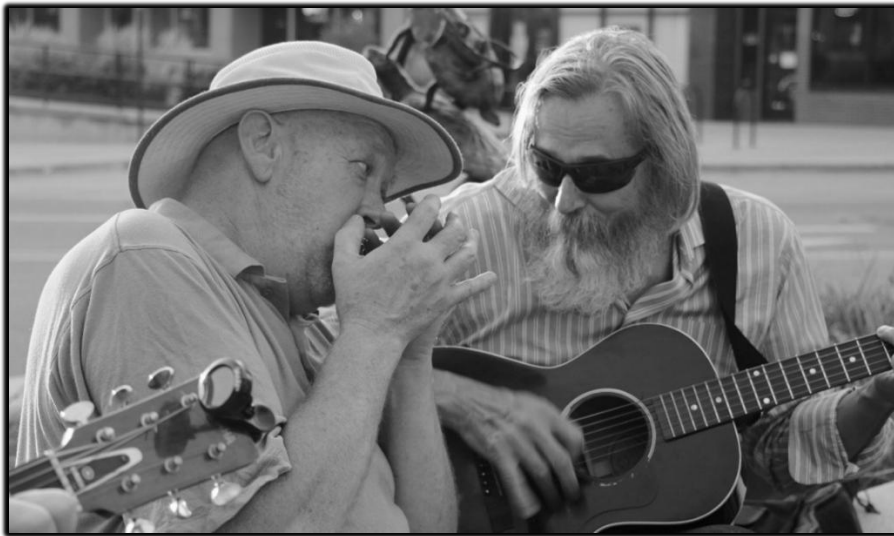


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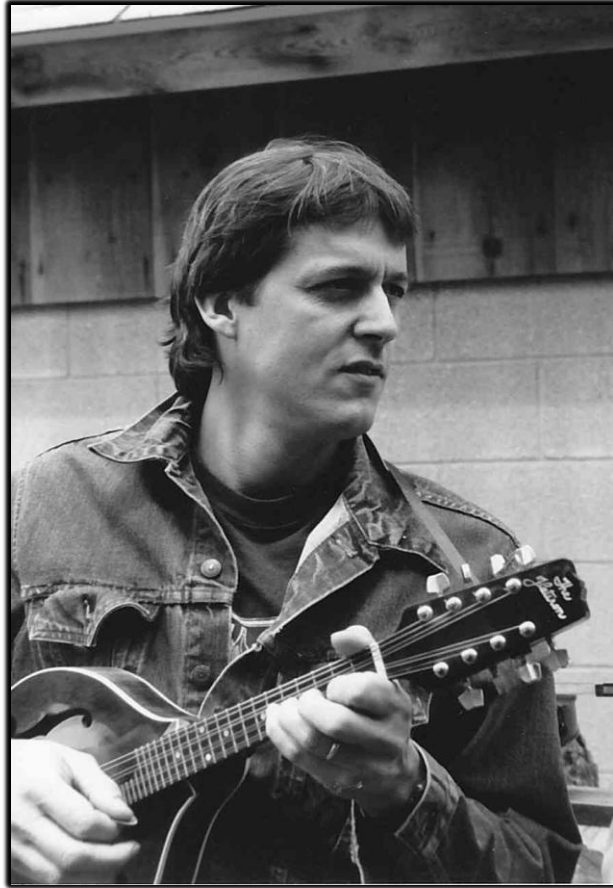


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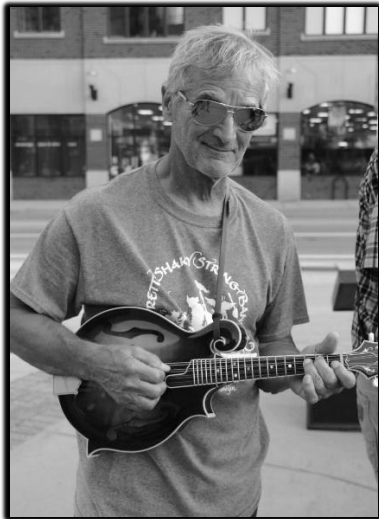
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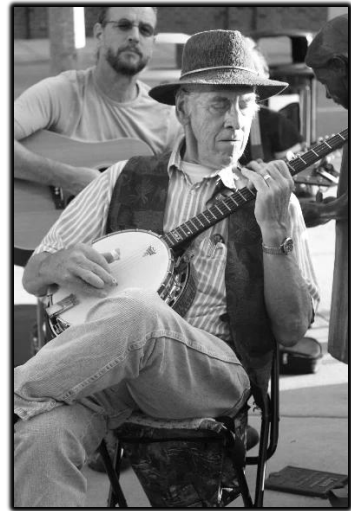
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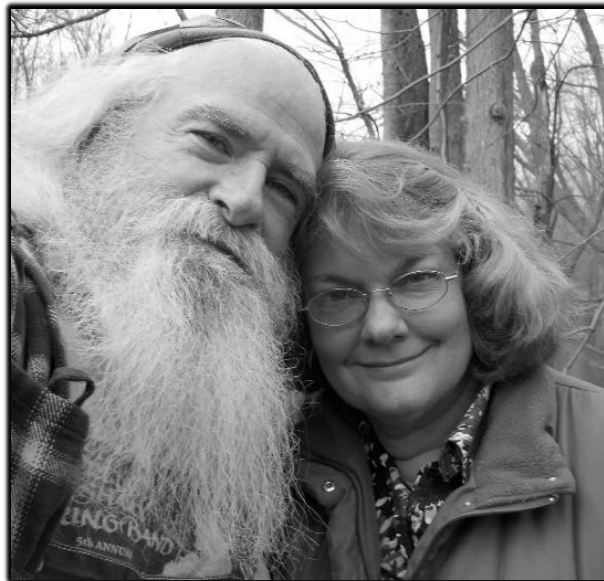
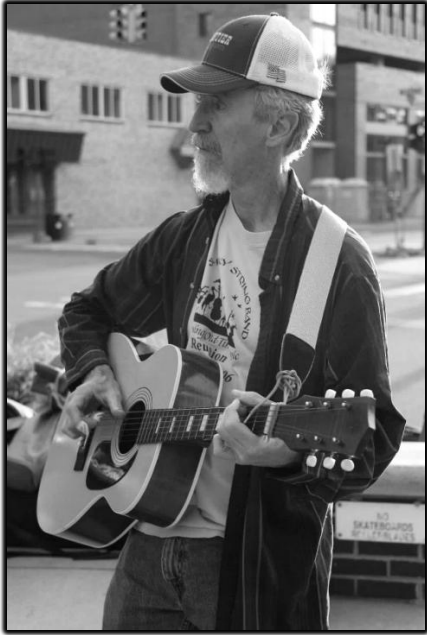


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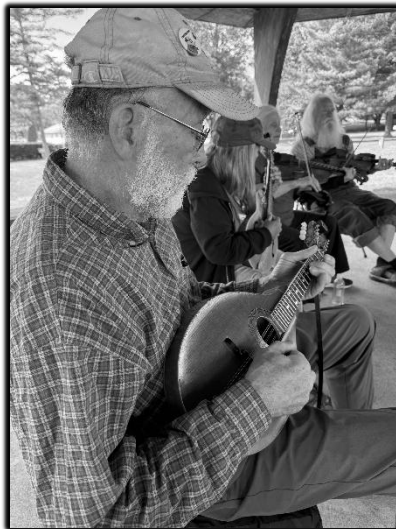
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... To Be Continued ...



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*Thank you again to all the Shaky
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Kathleen Clifford*

