

NOTE:

The long held notes may be of any length wished by the singer, or they may be redistributed to other places in the melody which the singer deems worthy of emphasis. As for the accompaniment, capo up 2 frets and use C position chords. A background of fast triplets (see NOTE to Section VI-E-3) sets off the song very well. Once the fingers are set into motion so that they will continue automatically, it will not be difficult to sing freely over the banjo pattern. Furthermore, a melody or counter-melody may be woven into the pattern of triplets. Approach this step by step.

Take a C position chord.

- (a) First, following the layout in the NOTE to VI-E-3, play a series of triplets, accenting the first of each three and placing each first beat on a different string from the one before. This is all within a stationary C chord, your left hand hasn't moved.

- (b) Then begin playing notes outside the C chord on those first beats, perhaps a series like the following. Hold onto whatever parts of the C chord you can (steps 2 and 3 below). The outline below merely gives you the string played, which fret and which left hand finger. The right hand pattern is given in the NOTE mentioned.

1. 2nd string: 1st fret: index finger.
2. 1st string: 2nd fret: 3rd finger.
3. 5th string.

1. 2nd string: unfretted.
2. as step 2 above.
3. as step 3 above.

1. 3rd string: 2nd fret: 2nd finger.
2. as above.
3. as above.

1. 3rd string unfretted.
- 2 and 3. as above.

The effect of this is a small scale, played on the accented first beats, backed up by a C chord played on the unaccented 2nd and 3rd beats.

2. My love she won't have me, so I understand,
She wants a free-holder and I have no land.
I cannot maintain her on silver and gold,
Nor buy all the fine things my love's house must hold.
3. I wish I was a sparrow and had wings and could fly,
Right to my love's window this night I'd draw nigh;
And all night in the arms of my true love I'd lay,
And watch those little windows till the dawning of day.
4. I wish I was a merchant and could write a fine hand,
I'd write my love a letter that she'd understand.
I'd write it to the island where waters o'erflow,
And I'll think of my love wherever I go.