in memoriam Pete Seeger

Blue Skies

Irving Berlin (1926)
arr. Pete Seeger (1955)
based on a performance by Tony Trischka (Jan. 2014)
trans. C. Gainey (Aug. 2014)

Moderate* Swing** (\( \text{\textit{q}} = \text{ca. 100} \))***

* "Moderate" in that this tune has a laid back feel, despite the active texture (i.e., there is a difference between music that is fast and music that is active).

** "Swing" reflects a flexible approach to the subdivisions of the beat in performances by both Pete Seeger and Tony Trischka. For example, the triplets in mm. 6-8 are often swung, while the cascade of triplets in m. 9 is often played more or less straight. This distinction lends a dramatic touch to the end of the "B" theme of this tune. Throughout this transcription, rhythms are notated according to the most plausible (at least in my opinion) straight rhythm – a baseline against which one may develop a personalized interpretation of how this tune should swing.

*** (\( \text{\textit{q}} = \text{ca. 100} \)) is meant to indicate the median within a range of possible tempos for this piece. The choice of tempo is, naturally, somewhat subjective. In my opinion, however, this tune should be played no slower than (\( \text{\textit{q}} = 92 \)) and no faster than (\( \text{\textit{q}} = 108 \)).