

Session Tunes Project – Summer 2023

Classes Resume the week of 2023-09-18. This leaves 7 weeks starting 2023-07-30 to have a focused practice program to build up my repertoire. Each week I will focus on a particular type of tune, and the goal will be to learn at least two sets of 3 tunes of a specific type over the course of each week. Tunes will be pulled from the "James Cleveland Slow Session Tunes List" Excel spreadsheet, and I'll post a Muse Score sheet music and audio file for each one based on the setting for each tune found in the Foinn Seisiún series of books* from Comhaltas. If there are significant differences between the Foinn Seisiún version and one that James has provided in an earlier class I'll add a comment to the notes below highlighting the differences, and ideally create a Muse Score setting for each variation of sheet music/audio (e.g. you'll see a 'Foinn Seisiún' version and a 'JC' version of those tunes where appropriate).

* If a tune isn't present in any of the Foinn Seisiún books, I'll use the Kingston version or note another alternate source as necessary, but Foinn Seisiún versions will always be the preferred first choice when available.

This project will add about 45 new tunes to my repertoire on Mandolin, and along with the other random ones I've picked up so far I should end up with a total of about 60 tunes +/- that I should be able to confidently play from memory at a reasonable tempo. A "100%" complete rating means that I can play the entire tune from memory, 2-3 times through at 120 bpm* or better with no physical or mental mistakes. Each week I should ideally be able to play both sets all the way through at 100% by the end of the week, along with that week's review material.

* This benchmark tempo is based on my own baseline proficiency - folks who are less experienced at their instrument can pick a lower tempo, but the other requirements for "knowing" a tune should always be the same - you should be able to play through the tune in its entirety, in time and from memory, with no significant mistakes (either physical or mental) at the target tempo.

- physical mistake: attempted to play the correct note at the correct time, but made a physical error in sounding it correctly
- mental mistake: played a wrong note, forgot which note to play, forgot how a section of the tune goes, or chose the wrong note or timing to play at a specific moment

The companion project will be to get each week's tunes added to the www.waterbearstudios.com website with Muse Score sheet music and audio files, and configured into a player page where I can select the set of tunes and view the sheet music while I play along with the audio. The task for the weekend prior to each practice week will be to add the Muse Score sheet music and audio files for that week's tunes to the website so I have the audio and sheet music ready to go for the upcoming week's practice. The player page of the website is still in progress, but the audio files and sheet music will be available each week.

This approach will use the concept of 'spaced repetition' to help retain learned material. The idea is that once you learn something, you should test that knowledge by revisiting learned items at periodic intervals to reinforce the ability to recall that information on demand. It is a proven method of moving learned information from temporary short-term or intermediate memory into long-term permanent memory.

Weekly Schedule

Week #	Main Tunes for the week	Review material
Week 1	Jigs #1	Review 'random' tunes collection
Week 2	Reels #1	Week one sets + random tunes
Week 3	Polkas	All sets from Weeks One and Two
Week 4	Hornpipes	All sets from Weeks One and Three + random tunes
Week 5	Jigs/Slides/Slip Jigs	All sets from Weeks Two and Four
Week 6	Reels #2	All set from Weeks Three and Five + random tunes
Week 7	Waltzes/Airs/Marches	All sets Weeks One through Six + random tunes

Source Code	Source	Notes
FS1	Foinn Seisiún One	
FS2	Foinn Seisiún Two	
FS3	Foinn Seisiún Three	
FS4	Foinn Seisiún Four	
JC	Provided by James Cleveland	
KIT	Kingston Irish Tunebook	

Note: If the 'Muse Score' checkbox is selected for a tune, this means that all three Muse Score elements have been created:

- Muse Score main score/sheet music file (for Mandolin, Fiddle 1 and Fiddle 2)
- Muse Score export of Mandolin part with notes and tab in .png format
- Muse Score export of complete score audio in .mp3 format

List of 'random' tunes I've started learning informally:

#	Title	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	Banish Misfortune	Dmix	Jig		75%	Three parts. Has both a C natural and a C#
2	Humours of Ennistymon	G	Jig		25%	Four parts
3	Kesh Jig	G	Jig		100%	
4	Kerfunken	D	Jig		25%	
5	My Darling Asleep	D	Jig		100%	
6	Swallowtail Jig	Em	Jig		100%	
7	Banshee	G	Reel		75%	
8	Drowsy Maggie	Em	Reel		100%	
9	Wind that Shakes the Barley	D	Reel		100%	
10	Dingle Regatta	G	Slide		75%	
11	Road to Lisdoonvarna	Em	Slide		100%	
12	Star Above the Garter	G	Slide		100%	
13	Merrily kissed the Quaker's Wife	G	Slide		25%	Three parts
14	Lark in the Morning	D	Jig		25%	Four parts
15	Tobin's Favorite	D	Jig			

Week One: 07-30 to 08-05: Jigs

#	Title	Source	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	East at Glendart	FS1	D	Jig		90%	pg 19 (aka "Humours of Glendart")
2	Saddle the Pony	FS1	G	Jig		75%	pg 19
3	The Spotted Dog	JC	A	Jig			source: Class 02: 2022-09-19
4	Behind the Haystack	FS2	D	Jig			pg 15 Three parts (needs chords) (aka Munster Buttermilk)
5	Black Rogue	KIT	D	Jig			KIT pg J-30
6	Blarney Pilgrim	FS1	Dmix	Jig			pg 23

Week One challenge: Play through all Week 1 tunes at 100%, and Review all 'random' tunes as part of warm-ups and in between structured practice sessions.

Stretch goal: Get all 'random' tunes up to 100%

Week Two: 08-06 to 08-12: Reels

#	Title	Source	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	Mountain Road	FS1	D	Reel		75%	
2	Drowsy Maggie	FS1	D (JC = Em)	Reel		75%	FS1 has some differences vs JC and MandoLessons.com versions
3	Maid Behind the Bar		D	Reel			
4	Cooley's		Em	Reel			
5	Merry Blacksmith		D	Reel			
6	Silver Spear		D	Reel			
7	Concertina		D	Reel			

Week Two challenge: Play through all Week Two tunes at 100% and review all Week One tunes and 'random' tunes, play through from memory.

Stretch goal: Confirm all 'random' tunes are at 100%

Week Three: 08-13 to 08-19: Polkas

#	Title	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	Galway Belles		Polka			
2	Rattlin' Bog		Polka			
3	Maids of Ardagh		Polka			
4	Egan's		Polka			
5	John Ryan's		Polka			
6	Britches full of Stitches		Polka			
7	Ballydesmond #1		Polka			
8	Ballydesmond #2		Polka			
9	Ballydesmond #3		Polka			

Week Three challenge: Play through all Week Three tunes at 100%, review all Week One and Two tunes and play through from memory.

- **Note:** Polkas are a little quicker/shorter so there are three sets this week, and no additional review material

Week Four: 08-20 to 08-26: Hornpipes

#	Title	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	Boys of Blue Hill		Hornpipe			
2	Cronin's		Hornpipe			
3	Home Ruler		Hornpipe			
4	Kitty's Wedding		Hornpipe			
5	Fisher's		Hornpipe			
6	Off to California		Hornpipe			

Week Four challenge: Play through all Week Four tunes at 100%, review all Week One and Week Three tunes and play through from memory.

Check in on 'random' tunes collection as part of warm-ups and in between structured sessions. Ideally should be able to play through these from memory with only limited reference to sheet music if needed.

Week Five: 08-27 to 09-02: Jigs, Slides & Slip Jigs

#	Title	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	Chase Me Charlie	D	Slide			
2	O'Keefe's	Am	Slide			
3	Patsy Geary's	D	Slide			
4	Butterfly	Em	Slip Jig			
5	Fig for a Kiss	Em	Slip Jig			
6	Foxhunter	D	Slip Jig			

Week Five challenge: Play through all Week Five tunes at 100%, review all Week Two and Week Four tunes and play through from memory.

- Slip Jigs set will be more challenging, so no additional review material this week

Week Six: 09-03 to 09-09: Reels

#	Title	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	Teetotaler's		Reel			aka 'Temperance Reel'
2	Cup of Tea		Reel			
3	Swinging on the Gate		Reel			
4	Bank of Ireland		Reel			
5	Spoostiskerry		Reel			
6	Barrowburn		Reel			

Week Six challenge: Play through all Week Six tunes at 100%, review all Week Three and Week Five tunes + random tunes and play through from memory.

Week Seven: 09-10 to 09-16: Waltzes/Airs/Marches

#	Title	Key	Type	Muse Score	% Complete	Notes
1	Ashokan Farewell		Air			
2	Inisheer		Air			
3	Fanny Power		Air			
4	Na Conneries		Air			
5	Si Bheag Si Mhor		Air			
6	The Foggy Dew		March			

Week Seven challenge: Play through all Week Seven tunes at 100%, review entire Week One through Week Six repertoire + random tunes collection.

Ideal scenario is that I should be able to create an audio playlist of the complete repertoire and play along with the entire thing from memory, with perhaps the occasional reference to sheet music to fill in any gaps.