

The Banjo (1854)

Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829-1869)

arranged by Paul Ely Smith
for 5-string banjo tuned gCGcd
note: I perform this tuned eAEab

The first system of musical notation for 'The Banjo' consists of a treble clef staff and a TAB staff. The treble staff is in 2/4 time and contains 11 measures of music, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and chords. The TAB staff shows the corresponding fret numbers for each string, with a 'T' (thumb) and 'B' (back) indicator for the first two strings.

I I T I I I I T I I I I I I I T I I I I T I I I I I I I T I I I I T I T I T

The second system of musical notation for 'The Banjo' also consists of a treble clef staff and a TAB staff. It begins with a measure number '12'. The treble staff contains 11 measures of music, primarily consisting of eighth and sixteenth note chords. The TAB staff provides the fret numbers for these chords.

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NOTE: I play this sextuplet ornament in up-picking technique, like a forward-backward bluegrass roll. The minstrel downstroke banjo players did this sort of phrase in downstroke style, but I think it's very clumsy at this speed. However, the second time here, I have written it in downstroke style, so you can try it.

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I I T I T I T I I I T I I I I T I I T I M T M I T I I I T I T I T I R T I T I I I I T I I T I M T M I T I I I T I T I
up-picking

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31

T I M T M I T I I I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I-SL I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I-SL I T I T I T I T I T

38

38

I T I T I-SL I T

45

45

I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I I T I I I I T I T I T I M T M I T I I I T I M T M I I I T I I T I M T M I T I T

NOTE: Now I play this four-measure passage this way, with an up-picking roll. On the CD, I did a slightly easier version of the first triplet, all on open strings (IV-II-I, C-G-d). Originally I played this entirely with downstroke technique, which was somewhat more awkward. I play all four appearances of this phrase the same way each time, but I will write it out the second time here in the downstroke style, so you can decide which you prefer. The last two notes, the high C and D, are always downstrokes, though.

53

PL = pluck with the left hand. I use my middle finger.

I I T I I I I I I T I M T I T H T M T I M T M T I T M T I M T M I T M I T M I T I I I P L I T I I H I T

up-picking

The "X"s mark where I actually come down with my right hand, but I don't hit a string. It makes the rhythm better, so I can really pop the high notes...

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I P L I T I H I T H I P L I T I T P L I T I P L I T I I I T I T I I (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T

I lightly hit the G starting each set of four 1/16 notes, but I pop the thumb up to those high note on the first string.

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ITITI I (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T ITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT

Yes, this is the first historic appearance of the Lester Flatt bluegrass "G-lick."

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ITITITIT I ITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT I I-SL I-H-P

82

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TITI-HIT IITII IITII IITITIT ITITITIT IITII IITII IITITIT ITITITIT IITII

92

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IITITIT IITII IITIMTMI IITII IITITIT IITII IITIMTMI TITII IITITIT

101

ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT

108

ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITIT ITITITITI

115

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T I M T M I T I I I T I T I T I I T I I I I T I M T M I T I T I I I I T I T I T I I T I I I I I T I M T M T - H T M
I

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T I M T M T I T M T I M T M I T M I T I M T I I T I M T M T - H T M T I M T M T I T M T I M T M I T M I T M I T I I
I

131

I T I T I (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T (I) T I T I T

138

I T I T I T I T I I I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I I I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T

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I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I T I I-SL I-H-P T I T I-H I T I I T I I I I T I I I I T I T I T

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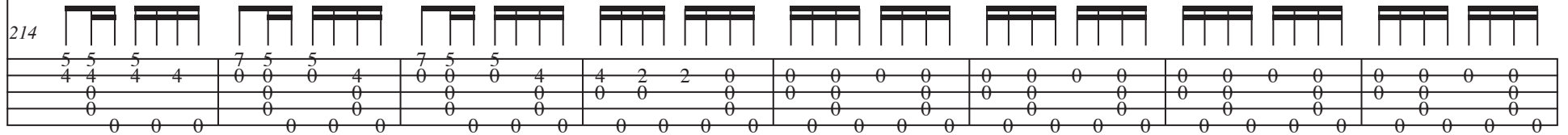
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I T I T I T I T I I T I I I I I T I T I T I I T I I T I I T I I I I T I T I T I T I T I T

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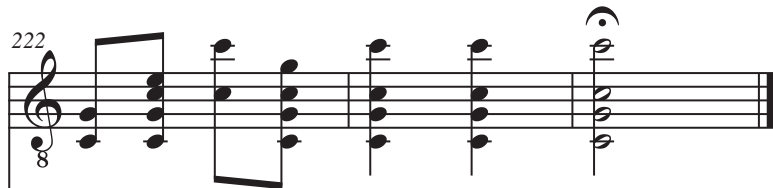


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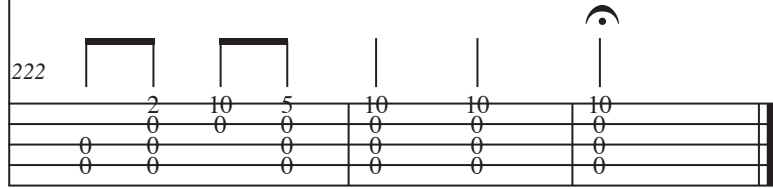


I I T

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I I I I I I I