

Seasonal Suites

For Mandocello

21 Easy to Intermediate Original Tunes,
Arranged into Suites for Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn

by
John Goodin

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Introduction

The larger members of the mandolin family, the mandocello (CGDA) and the octave mandolin (or “mandola in G”, GDAE), don’t always receive the attention they deserve. These short and not too difficult Seasonal Suites were written and tested on the octave mandolin but with the mandocello also in mind. My goal was to create a number of easy to intermediate pieces for the novice to work on and, additionally, to offer some pleasant sight-reading opportunities for the more advanced player.

While writing I was conscious of the longer stretches required on these instruments and the extra resonance supplied by their open strings. I added a few double-stops and chords to some of the tunes but in general I resisted the urge to add a lot of extra notes. The player of these tunes is more than welcome to create more elaborate versions of these mostly melodic pieces.

While I have never owned a mandocello I have enjoyed playing many of them at rehearsals and mandolin gatherings. I have, however, played octave mandolin since the early 1980s. Originally I played an early Flatiron octave, which I still have. Over time the relatively long scale of the instrument took a toll on my hands and I played it less and less. Today I also own a very nice Eastman octave mandolin with a much more manageable scale length. This is the instrument used to test drive these tunes.

You can hear me playing rough versions of these pieces on my So Many Tunes blog (somanytunes.blogspot.com), where you can also find the sheet music that is collected here into book form.

I began this project in 2019 with the Winter and Spring Suites and then I came back to finish up in the Summer and Autumn of this plague year. I hope that you find a measure of enjoyment in playing this music and that your big mandolins sound great in the process.

John Goodin, Decorah, Iowa, December 2020

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Winter Suite, February 2019

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4. Reel	
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6. Jig	

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2. New Growth	8
3. The Little Flowers	
4. The Cultivator	10
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Summer Suite, August 2020

1. Queen Anne's Lace	11
2. The Morning Glory	12
3. Dame's Rocket	
4. The Sunflower	13
5. Prince's Feather	

Autumn Suite, November 2020

1. Amber	14
2. Russet	15
3. Golden	
4. Scarlet	16
5. Auburn	

Winter Suite, February 2019

(for Mandocello)

John Goodin

1. Walking Tune

1. 2.

2. Hornpipe

3. Saraband



4. Reel



5. Air



6. Jig



Summer Suite, August 2020

(for Mandocello)

John Goodin

1. Queen Anne's Lace

Slowly

6

11

16

20

24

29

33

37

$\text{♩} = 100$

3

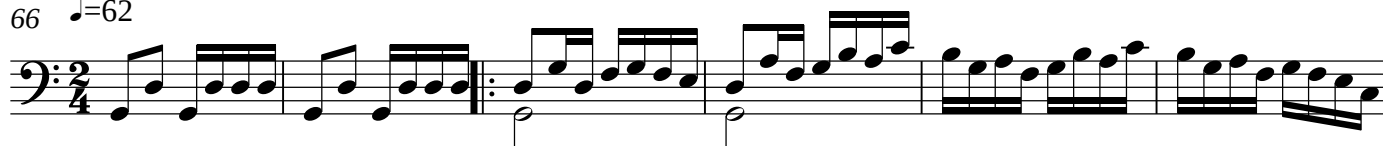
2. The Morning Glory

41 ♩=136



3. Dame's Rocket

66 ♩=62



4. The Sunflower

86 ♩=90



5. Prince's Feather

103 ♩=115



Summer Suite, August 2020

(for Mandocello)

1. Queen Anne's Lace

John Goodin

Slowly

6

11

16

20

24

29

33

37

$\text{♩} = 100$

3

2. The Morning Glory

41 $\text{♩} = 136$ 

47



53



59



3. Dame's Rocket

66 $\text{♩} = 62$ 

72



77



82

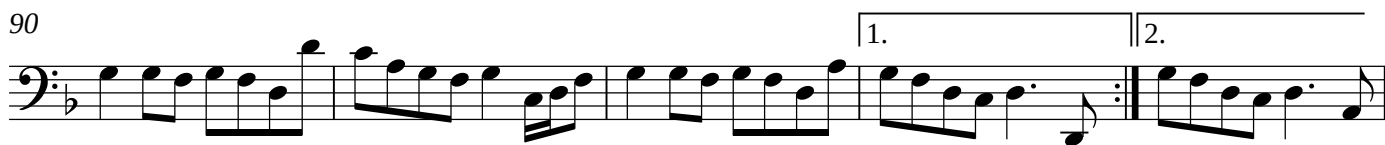


4. The Sunflower

86 $\text{♩} = 90$



90



95



99



5. Prince's Feather

103 $\text{♩} = 115$



109



Autumn Suite, November 2020

(for Mandocello)

John Goodin

1. Amber

$\text{♩} = 96$

5

9

13

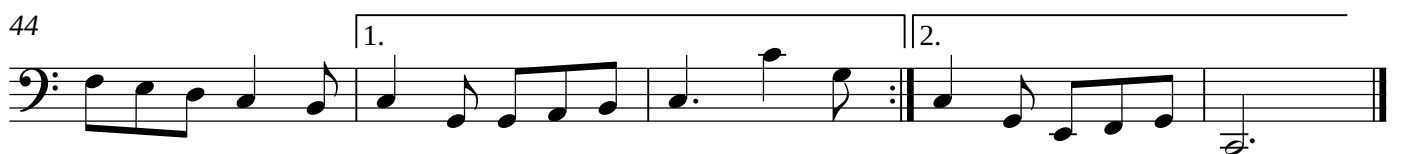
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21

25

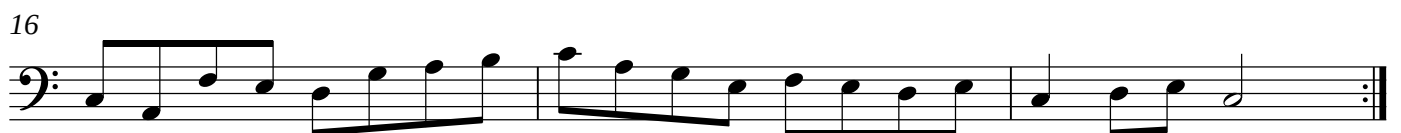
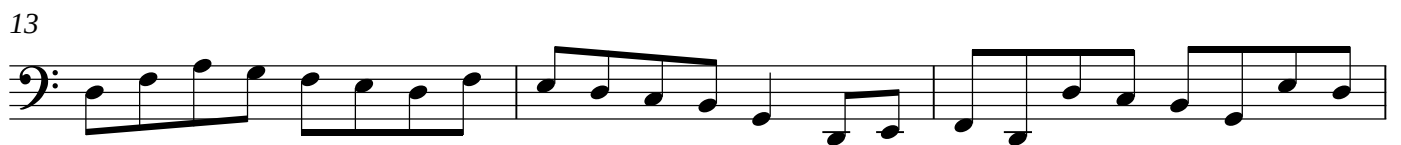
2. Russet

29 ♩=110



3. Golden

♩=120



4. Scarlet

19 ♩=130



25



31



38



44



5. Auburn

51 ♩=100



56



61



66

