

Seasonal Suites

For Octave Mandolin

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

(for Octave Mandolin)

John Goodin

1. Walking Tune

Musical score for "1. Walking Tune" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves. The first staff contains the first four measures. The second staff contains measures 5-8, with a first ending bracket over measures 6-7 and a second ending bracket over measure 8. The third staff contains measures 9-12. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16, with a first ending bracket over measures 14-15 and a second ending bracket over measure 16. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

2. Hornpipe

Musical score for "2. Hornpipe" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves. The first staff contains measures 1-4, with triplets marked over measures 3 and 4. The second staff contains measures 5-8, with triplets marked over measures 5, 6, and 7, and a first ending bracket over measure 8. The third staff contains measures 9-12, with triplets marked over measures 9, 10, and 11. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16, with a first ending bracket over measures 14-15 and a second ending bracket over measure 16. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

3. Saraband



4. Reel



5. Air



6. Jig



Spring Suite, May 2019

(for Octave Mandolin)

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1. Vernal Signs

♩=100

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2. New Growth

♩=130



3. The Little Flowers

♩=100



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the eighth staff.

4. The Cultivator

♩=120 (Dotted 8ths)



5. Full Bloom

♩=105



Summer Suite, August 2020

(for Octave Mandolin)

1. Queen Anne's Lace

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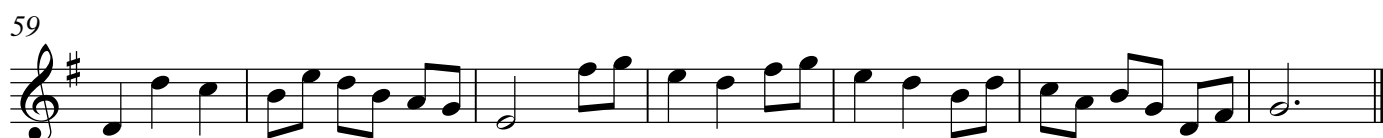
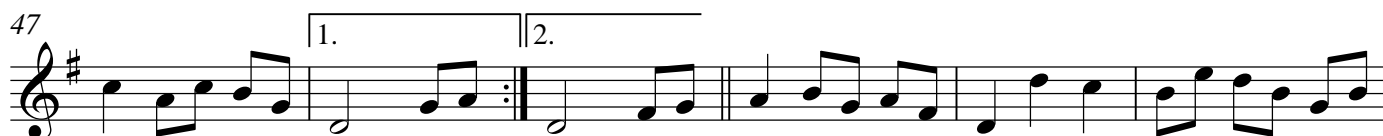
Slowly

The musical score is written for an octave mandolin in 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Slowly'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and chords. There are measure numbers 6, 11, 16, 20, 24, 29, 33, and 37 indicated at the start of their respective staves. A tempo marking of quarter note = 100 is present above the sixth staff. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the eighth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the ninth staff.

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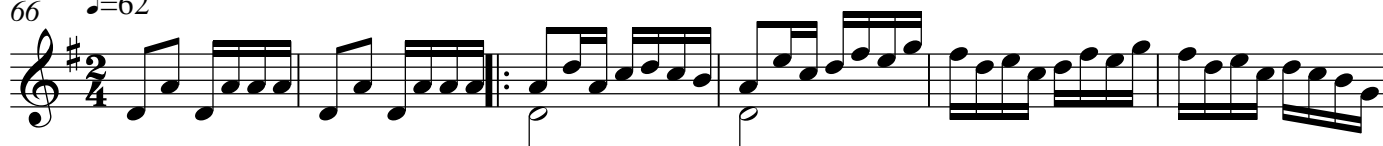
2. The Morning Glory

41 $\text{♩} = 136$



3. Dame's Rocket

66 $\text{♩} = 62$



4. The Sunflower

86 $\text{♩} = 90$

90

95

99

5. Prince's Feather

103 $\text{♩} = 115$

109

Autumn Suite, November 2020

(for Octave Mandolin)

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1. Amber

$\text{♩} = 96$

5

9

13

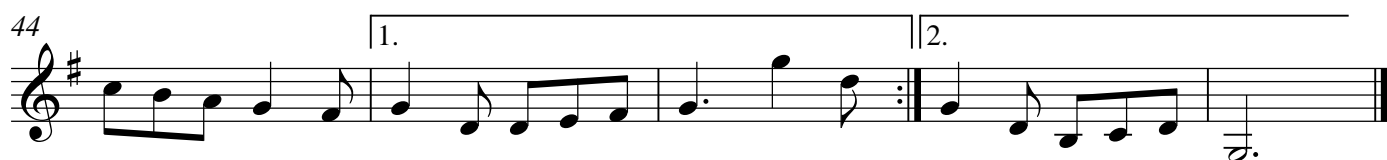
17

21

25

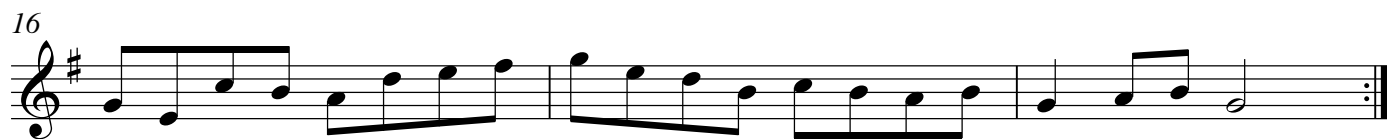
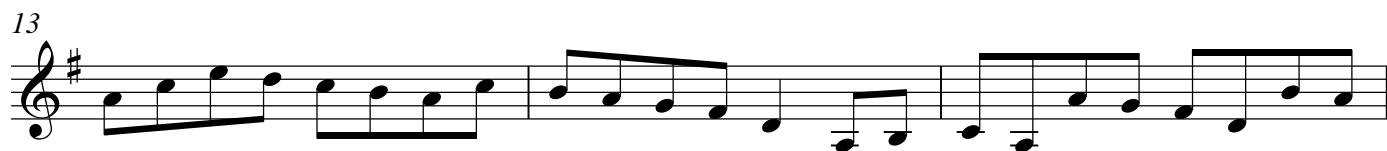
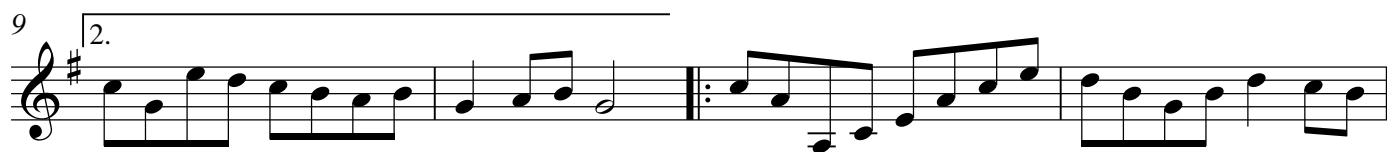
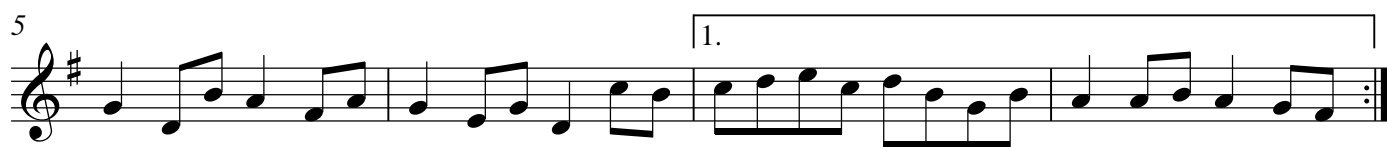
2. Russet

29 ♩=110



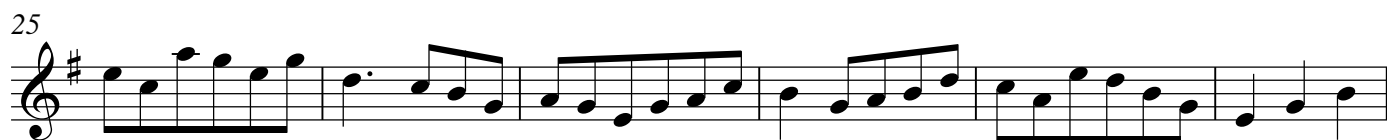
3. Golden

♩=120



4. Scarlet

19 ♩=130



5. Auburn

51 ♩=100

