Sandy River Belle

Traditional (Arr. Pete Showman)



This arrangement is more or less how I play it, though as usual slurs and thus bowing will vary from one time to the next. I don't remember where I learned it, but it has always seemed like a nice banjo tune, and I guess I like to play it with a lot of eighth notes to keep that feel. See the Fiddlers Fakebook for a smoother version.

I hear the tune may be from around the Big Sandy River, and that there are other tunes with the same name. It's always seemed to me it might be named for a riverboat — I guess the sound of it (and the name) makes me think of a paddlewheel steamer chugging along. I've always played it in G, but the version in the Fiddlers Fakebook that sounds most like this is notated in D.

- Pete Showman

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