

Stranger On A Mule - Elzie Estes via Bruce Green

Fiddle Standard G - GDae

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The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The first measure is marked with a 'G' chord and a boxed letter 'A'. The second staff continues the melody, with 'G', 'C', and 'D' chords indicated above the notes. A first ending bracket labeled '1.' spans the final two measures of this staff, which end with a double bar line and repeat dots. The third staff starts with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and a boxed letter 'B' above the second measure. This staff includes 'G', 'C', and 'D' chords. The fourth staff continues the melody with 'G', 'C', and 'D' chords. The fifth staff contains two endings, both labeled '1.' and '2.', each with a 'G' chord above the first measure. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

This section presents four variations of the main melody on a single staff. The first two variations are labeled 'Var A1' and the last two are labeled 'Var A2, A6'. Each variation is a four-measure phrase. The first variation (Var A1) features a melodic line with eighth notes and a dotted quarter note. The second variation (Var A1) is a simpler, more direct version of the melody. The third variation (Var A2, A6) introduces a sixteenth-note triplet in the first measure. The fourth variation (Var A2, A6) is another variation of the triplet-based melody. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

Elzie was hoeing corn and heard somebody riding a mule in the distance whistling this tune.

Elzie's recording is quite a bit less melodic with a lot of doubled eighth notes.