

# Tune Tips for 2017 Homework!

Our homework is often referred to as “*Before Midnight*” or “*After Midnight*”. In addition to referring to *when* these tunes are often played, we use this designation to suggest which tunes are fairly straight forward, and which may be more challenging. Advanced players will love the “*After Midnight*” set. Beginner & intermediate players may prefer to first focus their attention on the “*Before Midnight*” tunes. All are great tunes!

## **Before Midnight**

Bill Cheatham  
Come Dance and Sing  
Dull Chisel  
Folding Down the Sheets  
Four Posts of the Bed  
Jaybird  
Hungry as a Bear  
Keg 'O Nails  
Miss McLeod's Reel  
O'Donnell Abu  
Son of a Bear  
Too Young to Marry  
West Fork Gals

## **After Midnight\***

Blue Shift Shuffle  
Eoin Bear's Reel  
Harmony in the Chaos  
Highlight Reel  
Lovely Miss Gunning  
Miss Drummond of Perth's Favourite Scots Measure  
Passing Train Juniper Jig  
Ridiculous Sister 2  
Tune for Sharon

## **Notes to Help Learn Some of the Trickier Individual Tunes**

**Blue Shift Shuffle\*** - *General*: Lots of accidentals and chromatic runs. Form is unusual ABACAB.

*Fiddle*: Note same-finger tri-tones; multiple fingering options (1-1 or 1-2)

**Eoin Bear's Reel\*** – *Dulcimer*: High A# can be subbed with F# if needed

**Four Posts of the Bed** – *General*: Note B part does NOT repeat

**Harmony in the Chaos\*** - *General*: Two parts, but B part doesn't repeat; second to last measure is very confusing due to notation/slides; remember that Fb equals E

*Dulcimer*: High Bb missing on many dulcimers (possible sub: G); slides don't work, so in second to last measure of B part, play F# and B natural instead of Fb and Bb

*Fiddle*: lots of slides on most accidentals; you can always leave out slides and play as notated. Second to last measure, if not playing slides, do the same thing as the dulcimers. If playing slides, slide F to F# and Bb to B.

**Lovely Miss Gunning\*** - *General*: 4 Parts, A/B parts crooked with extra measure (A 2nd ending; B 1<sup>st</sup> ending)

*Dulcimer*: If no D#, sub with F#

**Passing Train Juniper Jig\*** - *Dulcimer*: some may not have all high notes, if so, play down an octave

*Fiddle*: Third position needed in B part

**Highlight Reel\*** - *General*: Tricky rhythm in endings; unusual chords; fast chord changes

*Dulcimer*: Key is a bit awkward due to F#m in low A box (some won't have this, so play up an octave if needed)

**Ridiculous Sister 2\*** - *General*: Challenging Key; unusual Chords; unusual syncopated rhythms

*Dulcimer*: Gm key is challenging

*Fiddle*: Bb/C# hand position in A part (low 1/high 2 on A string)

**Son of a Bear** – *General*: 12 measure A part

*Dulcimer*: Smaller dulcimers may not have high C# and D, so play in lower octave

*Fiddle*: Third position in A part

**Tune for Sharon\*** - *General*: Unusual key of F

*Dulcimer*: Most dulcimers don't have low Bb, so sub D

*Fiddle*: If you can't do the stutter, leave out triplets and play eighth notes

*We're always happy to help! Email [lekaiser@comcast.net](mailto:lekaiser@comcast.net) and Lynne Ellen will direct your question to a mentor for your instrument.*

*[www.squirrelsneestlive.com/homework.php](http://www.squirrelsneestlive.com/homework.php)*