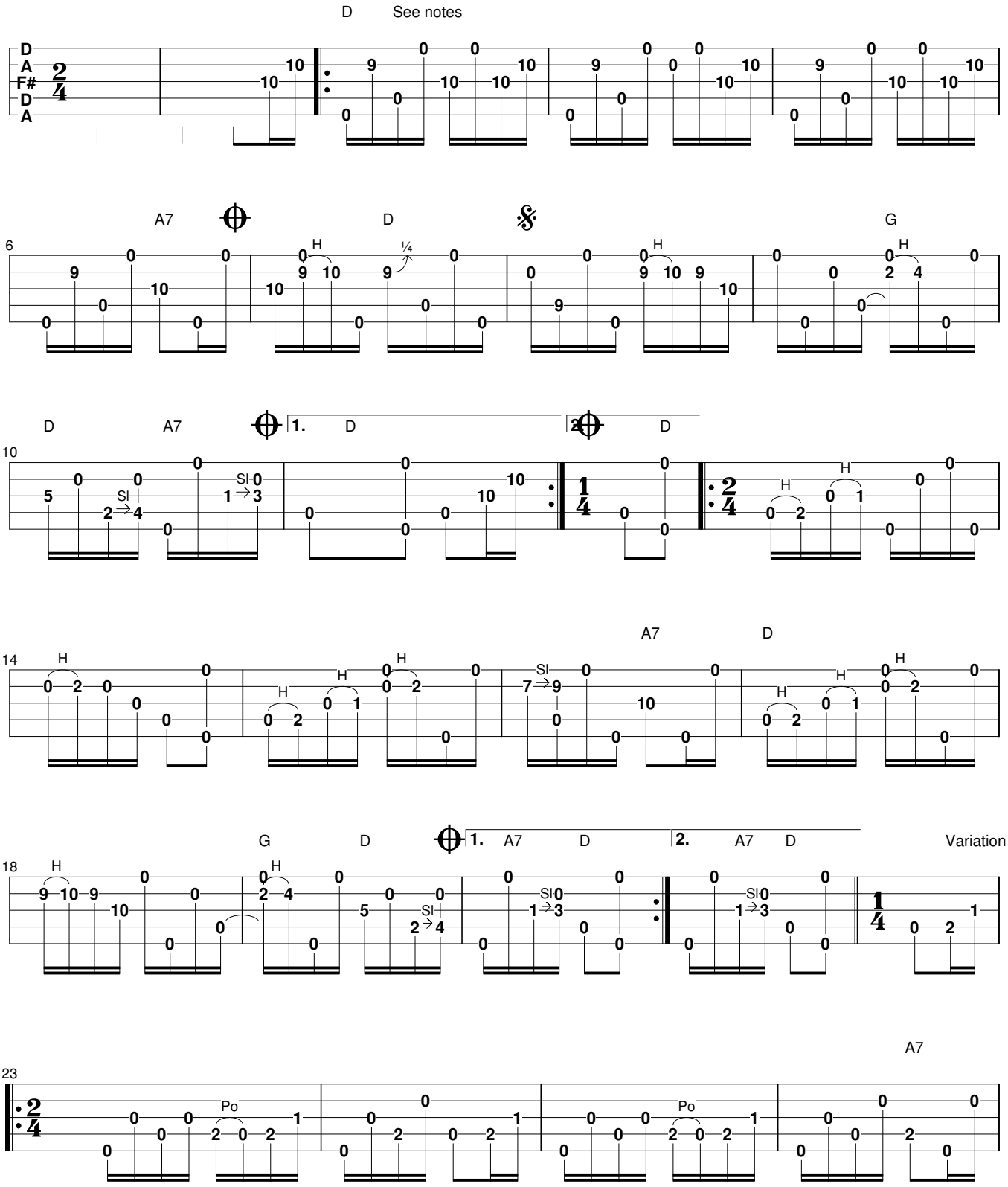
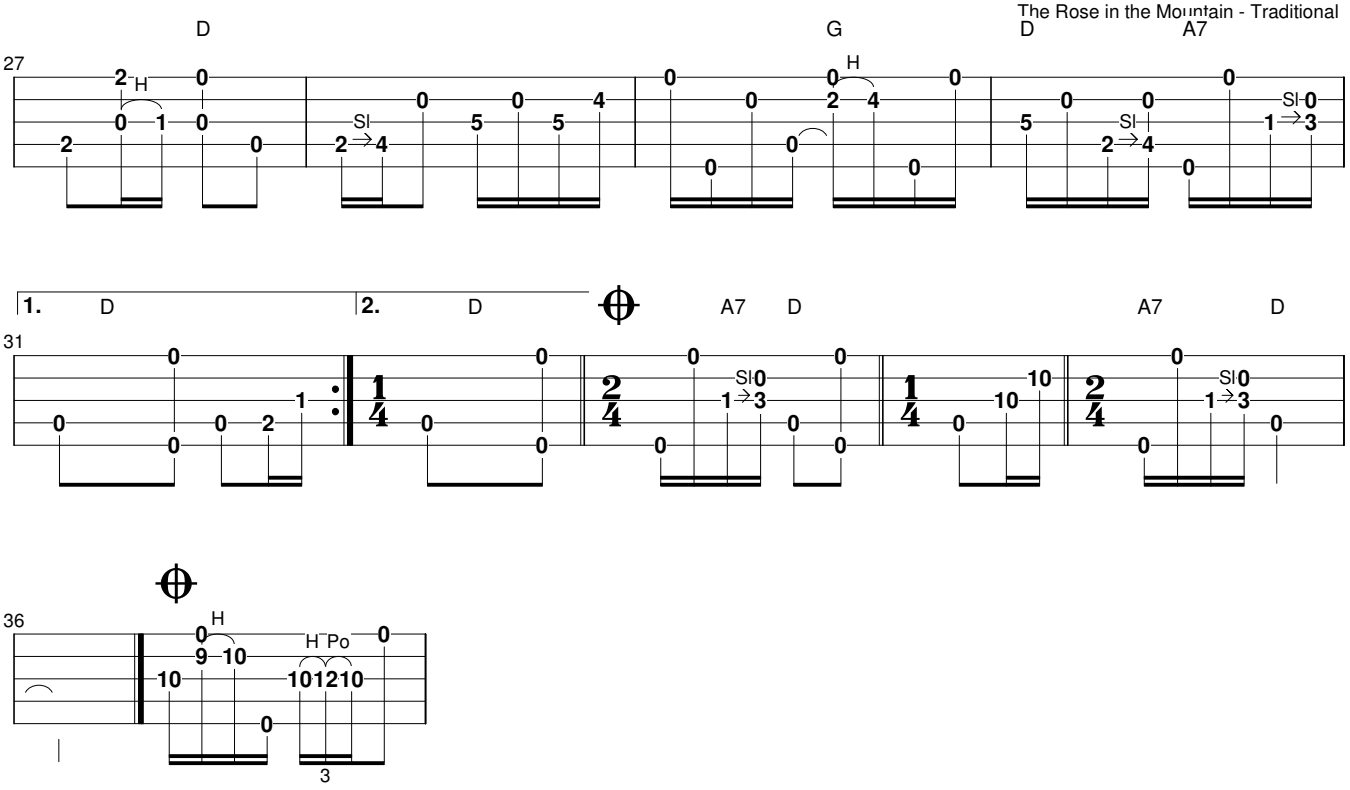
The Rose in the Mountain

Traditional

Arrangement (c) copyright 2010 by Donald J. Borchelt
All rights reserved.





This tune is attributed to old-time Kentucky fiddler John Salyer, whose 1940 recording can be found on the Digital Library of Appalachia wensite (see Links). I have wanted to learn this ever since I first listened to Adam Hurt's wonderful melodic clawhammer version posted on the Banjo Hangout. i was recently motivated to finally work on it after recently hearing a fiddler play threough it at Tim Rowell's Thursday night old-time jam at the Minuteman Music Center in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Though far less melodic, my version owes a lot to Hurt's performance, especially the approach to the low variation of the A part, and the overall way Hurt handles the "crooked" aspects of the A part. Hurt plays the tune in Cumberland Gap tuning (g#C#F#BE), and it comes out oin the key of E. I have set the tune in open D tuning, which is the fiddle key.

The opening measures have a lilt to them, which is the essense of the tune. I just the open 4th string liberally as a drone. These open drone notes should be played very gently, so that they ring in the background, almost as if they were ringing in sympathy.