

The Old-Time Collection



Old Joe Clark (traditional)

Musical score for mandolin in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a mandolin staff. Chord symbols (A, E, G) are placed above the treble staff. The mandolin staff shows fret numbers (0-6) and includes bowing directions (V for downbow, □ for upbow).

System 1: Treble staff has notes G4, A4, B4, G4, A4, B4, G4, A4. Mandolin staff has frets 0, 2, 3, 2, 0, 5, 4, 0, 2, 3, 2, 0.

System 2: Treble staff has notes G4, A4, B4, G4, A4, B4, G4, A4. Mandolin staff has frets 0, 2, 3, 2, 0, 5, 4, 4, 0, 2, 6, 0.

System 3: Treble staff has notes G4, A4, B4, G4, A4, B4, G4, A4. Mandolin staff has frets 0, 2, 4, 5, 0, 5, 4, 0, 2, 4, 0, 5.

System 4: Treble staff has notes G4, A4, B4, G4, A4, B4, G4, A4. Mandolin staff has frets 0, 2, 4, 5, 0, 5, 4, 4, 0, 2, 6, 0.

There are a couple of theories about the original subject of the song. Most likely is that it's about Joseph Clark of Kentucky, who was murdered in 1885. The melody has become very popular and widespread all over the United States. It is played in both Old Time and Bluegrass jam sessions.



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