

Hi,

I'm Jim Michener, and I'll be leading the folk music jam session Saturday afternoon during the 70th reunion.

Format:

I imagine we will sit or stand around in a circle. I will ask (us) musicians to name the next tune, and sometimes I will name one. The person naming the tune may lead it if they wish. If they do not wish to lead it, I or someone else who knows the tune well enough will lead it. The leader of a tune sets the pace, the key, and chooses when to stop.

I expect we will play each tune thru 2 or 3 times at least, with more repetitions for tunes with creative energy driving them and for songs we are singing the words of. If someone wants to get creative during a tune and take a solo (a "hot lick") they should step forward or otherwise signal to the leader and be recognized.

Possible Content: I offer the following list from the point of view that if we play tunes most of us know, things will go better, not with any intent to limit what tunes get "called". Some tunes that we might play:

From the Fireside Book of Folk Songs, like

- Golden Slippers (Key G, pattern AABB)
- Arkansas Traveler (Key D, pattern AABB)
- Camptown Races (D, medley w keys G and A; pattern AABB)
- Home on the Range (Key G or C, pattern AB)
- Red River Valley (Key G, pattern AB)

Waltzes

- "My Home" aka "My Ain House" (Key A, pattern AB)
- Margaret's Waltz (Key A, pattern AAB)
- My Cape Breton Home (Key G, pattern AAB)
- The Gentle Maiden (Key G, pattern AB)

Square Dance tunes

- Over the Waterfall (Key D, pattern AABB)
- St Anne's reel (Key D, pattern AABB)
- Liberty (Key D, pattern AABB)
- Mississippi Sawyer (Key D, pattern AABB)

"Pattern" refers to musical repetitions: For songs, "A" would refer to the verse and "B" the chorus, so "AAB" would mean sing two verses, then the chorus. Similarly for tunes without words.

Sources: Versions (sometimes lots of versions) of most of these tunes can be found in

<http://www.ibiblio.org/fiddlers/index.html>

or <http://www.thesession.org/>

and "ABC" notation can be converted to music at [http://www.concertina.net/tunes\\_convert.html](http://www.concertina.net/tunes_convert.html)

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