

Around The Great Hall

Sam Rizzetta © 2001

♩ = 96 Play as a round in four parts. Start a part every two measures, at double bar lines.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first two parts of the round, with a double bar line after two measures. The second staff contains the next two parts, also with a double bar line after two measures. The final two measures of the second staff are marked with 'A' and 'B' below the notes, indicating where the four parts of the round should be played.

Here is something you can play with a large group. Divide instruments into four groups roughly equal in loudness. If possible, have some instruments play an octave lower. Repeat the round as long as you care to play it. When coming to the final end of the round, I like to have each group keep repeating the last two measures until those playing the fourth part have finished. This way everyone ends together and the music concludes with a strong unison.

For many years O’Hurley’s General Store in Shepherdstown, West Virginia has been the site of regular jam sessions. Every Thursday night musicians gather in The Great Hall there. The musicians usually sit in a large circle, and each player takes a turn choosing a tune for the group to play. Dulcimer player Jay Hurley built The Great Hall ostensibly to add space to his store. But the room is suspiciously well suited for music. The Saint Patrick’s Day celebration at O’Hurley’s is always a grand party, and the 2001 event was especially inspiring. I composed “Around The Great Hall” that night after staying up way too late playing music. See also “Jay And The Double Deuce.”