

Dad's Favorite

Sam Rizzetta © 1993

$\bullet = 90$

D A D

5 D A D

9 B G D

13 E A [Guitar rest.....]

17 D A

21 D A D

I really enjoy playing this tune on the dulcimer, but for a long time it went unnamed. Bill Robinson recorded it as “Sam’s Tune,” a testimonial to my tardiness in titling. My father had a long struggle with Alzheimer’s disease and I sometimes played music during my visits to cheer him up. One day I happened to play this tune and dad’s eyes grew very wide as soon as I started it. When the piece ended he declared, “That’s my favorite music!”

This tune started life as a reaction against the dulcimer players’ cliché of playing lots of chords as ascending arpeggios. That eventually gets predictable and tiring. I decided I would use descending arpeggios. This gives “Dad’s Favorite” a distinctive flavor. The almost two measures of “guitar rest” in the B part is an opportunity for a solo instrument to improvise those measures. In a jam session take turns soloing in those measures while everyone else rests. The challenge, of course, is to play something different and amusing. “Dad’s Favorite” is included on the CD *Saving Trees*.