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’ cliche 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.