

Fire In The Cloud

Sam Rizzetta © 1997

♩ = 90

1 G Am D

5 G Am D G

9 B G Am G C D 12

13 G Am G Am D G

Variation for measure 12.

12

I often take workshop students on outdoor field trips for inspiration. A favorite destination used to be an old fire tower on the high peak of remote Bickle Knob near Elkins, West Virginia. In clear air you could see for scores of miles in every direction.

One afternoon our class struggled up the tower with a flute and a soprano hammer dulcimer. After savoring the awesome view, we took turns playing music for each other. There was only one lovely cloud in the sky and the air was calm and quiet. We improvised to express our feelings as the sun set and darkness gathered. Then lightning flashed inside the lone cloud, illuminating the cloud from within. The real show had just begun, and we sat transfixed as natural fireworks of the most magnificent sort played out for us alone.

This tune is a souvenir of that experience. I originally played it in the key of A on the small soprano dulcimer, but the key of G is preferred in jam sessions and on full size dulcimers. "Fire In The Cloud" is dedicated to Suzanne, Helen, Holly, Betsy, and Norman, who shared the experience. It is recorded on the CD *Saving Trees*.