

Little Liza Jane

hammer dulcimer drone technique

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes. Chordal drone notes are indicated by letters above the staff: D (measure 1), G and D (measures 3-4), D (measure 5), A and D (measures 7-8), D (measure 9), G and D (measures 11-12), and A and D (measures 13-14). The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

This shows a left hand lead. The low notes shown are A notes on the dulcimer bass bridge which are droned with the right hand while the left hand plays the melody notes on the treble bridge. For a right hand lead, play the melody notes with the right hand and use the left hand to play A note drones an octave higher, on the left side of the treble bridge.

Alternatively, D can be used as the drone note. When leading with the left hand, play the low D on the right side of the treble bridge with your right hand. When leading with the right hand, play the octave higher D on the left side of the treble bridge with your left hand. Which drone do you like better, A or D? High or low? Your preference will likely be based on whether it feels more natural to play lead with your right hand or left hand. Either way is okay!

Arranged by Sam Rizzetta
From the playing of Russell Fluharty and Charlie Casabona