Paul’s New Dulcimer

Sam Rizzetta © 1982

Paul Van Arsdale of western New York state was an excellent traditional hammer dulcimer player, and his skilled playing influenced many dulcimer players in the 1970s through the 1990s. He learned from his grandfather, Jesse Martin, who was a renowned performer. Paul asked me to build him a new dulcimer with more chromatic notes than the dulcimer handed down from his grandfather. After putting a few strings on his new dulcimer, I made up a tune using those few strings. As I added more strings, the tune expanded.

"Paul’s New Dulcimer" is on the CD Bucks And Does.