The A part is in E dorian mode, and the B part is in E mixolydian mode.

When Jay Hurley and I retraced the Lewis and Clark route by canoe down the Upper Missouri River in Montana we named some of our more memorable remote campsites. Our last camp on the river was "Rattlesnake Hideaway." After setting up camp we decided to do some hiking. We had not gone far before a coiled rattlesnake rattled a warning from its shaded perch under a rocky hideaway. Looking at our scaly friend from a safe distance, we were reminded that we were just pilgrims visiting in the snake's home territory. So, we named our camp and walked on. Carefully.

My wife, Carrie, says that this tune does sound rather serpentine.