

CORNSTALK FIDDLE AND A SHOESTRING BOW

Two-Part Treble Voices with Piano
and Optional Kazoos

American Folk Song
Arranged by Mark Burrows

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part



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Ranges:



Language: English
Use: General/Festival
Time: Approx. 1:47
*Difficulty: Moderate

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Notes

The cornstalk fiddle is an American folk music instrument that predates the American Civil War. The fiddle is made by cutting slits into the cornstalk to fashion the strings. Next, a small piece of wood is slid under the strings to serve as a bridge. The fiddle can be played with a regular violin/fiddle bow, or one fashioned from another cornstalk, or even a shoestring.

The cornstalk fiddle is referenced in popular folk songs, such as *Cotton Eye Joe*, and even in the poem *The Cornstalk Fiddle* by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

This arrangement has tried to capture the fun and energy of a hoedown, complete with stomps, pats, and...kazoos?! Well, unless you have some expert cornstalk fiddlers in your midst, kazoos will have to do.

The kazoo part (mm. 47-56 and mm. 75-end) may be played by the entire group, or by a soloist/small group.

If a soloist/small group is utilized, you can have a few choir members shout out encouragement during the kazoo part, such as:

“Oo-ee!”

“That shore is some fine playin’!”

“Yep, mighty fine!”

One recommendation is to use yarn and tape to make “kazoo necklaces” for the choir members. That way, they won’t have to hold (and possibly drop) their kazoos throughout the entire song.

About the Arranger

Mark Burrows is a writer, composer and clinician whose works are published by many major houses. His choral pieces, musicals and music education resources top numerous best-seller lists.

Known to little listeners as “Mister Mark,” he tours the nation performing concerts for children and families. His award-winning music can be heard on Sirius XM Radio. One song, *Amazon Rock*, was recorded by Nick Records for a Dora the Explorer album.

Mark received his undergraduate degree in music education from Southern Methodist University, and his graduate degree in conducting from Texas Christian University. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Cornstalk Fiddle and a Shoestring Bow

for Two-Part Treble Voices with Piano and opt. Kazoos

Traditional

Arranged by Mark Burrows

Hoedown (♩ = ca. 172–176)

Piano

mf

4

Stomp Pat

mf

8

mf

I made me a fiddle and I made me a bow, and I

mf

I made me a fiddle and I made me a bow, and I

learned to play the fid - dle like Cot - ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a

learned to play the fid - dle like Cot - ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a

shoe - string bow, _____ and if that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know.

shoe - string bow, _____ and if that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know.

18

18

mp

I

22

22

mp

Tuned my fid - dle, but I

tuned my fid - dle and I went to a dance. I tried to make mu - sic but I

mp

ne - ver got a chance. Corn - stalk fid - dle,

ne - ver got a chance. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a shoe - string bow,

mf
It's the ve - ry best fid - dle in the coun - ty - o!

mf
It's the ve - ry best fid - dle in the coun - ty - o!

mf

32

Ol' Cot-ton-Eyed Joe lived a -

36

cross the creek.

He learned to play the fid - dle 'bout se - ven days a week.

Corn - stalk fid - dle and a shoe - string bow, _____ and if

Corn - stalk fid - dle and a shoe - string bow, _____ and if

that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know.

that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know.

46

* Kazoo:

* Kazoo:

This section of the score covers measures 46 to 50. It features a vocal line at the top, two kazoo parts in the middle, and a piano accompaniment at the bottom. The kazoo parts are marked with an asterisk and the word "Kazoo:". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

51

This section of the score covers measures 51 to 55. It continues with the vocal line, two kazoo parts, and the piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment features more complex chordal textures and a steady bass line.

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cresc.

f

Lots of fid - dles,

f

I've made lots of fid - dles and I've made lots of bows, but I

f

63

like Cot-ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle, _____

ne - ver learned to fid - dle like Cot-ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a

66

It's the ve-ry best fid - dle, _____

shoe-string bow. _____ It's the

It's the ve-ry best fid-dle... in the coun-ty -

ve-ry best fid-dle, It's the ve-ry best fid-dle... in the coun-ty -

Kazoo:

o!

Kazoo:

o!

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