

## Tune 20: We Shall Overcome

Audio File 29 

This beloved African American gospel song has played a pivotal role in many civil rights movements. Here we play it in G major. You might also enjoy playing it lower, in D major, by starting on low A.

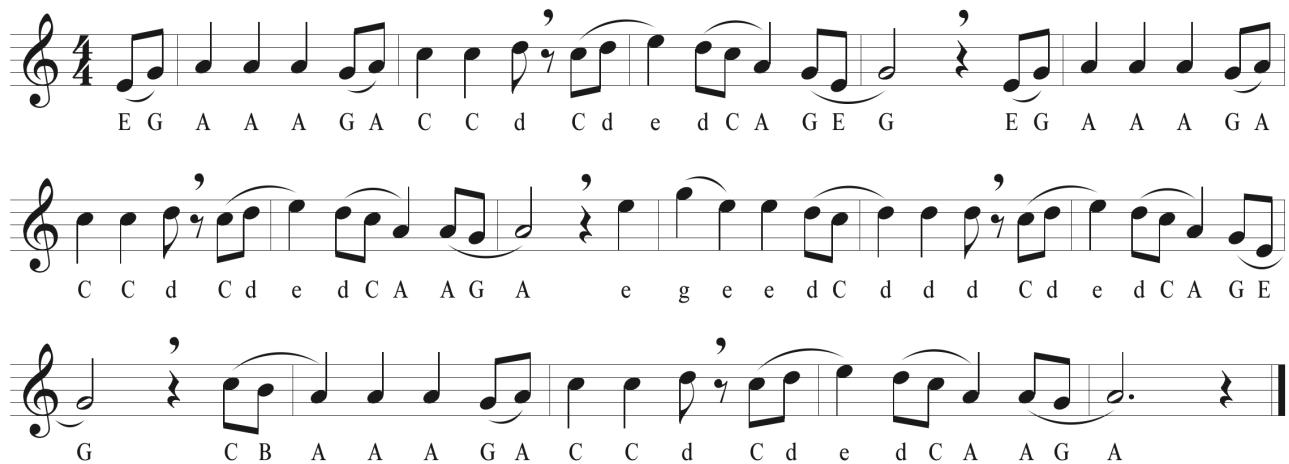


d d e e d C B d d e e d C B d d e f# g a f# e f# e  
 d e f# g f# e d e d C B C d d G C B A G

## Tune 21: Star of the County Down

Audio File 30 

Though we play this traditional Irish ballad tune in 4/4 time here, it is often played in 3/4 time as well.



E G A A A G A C C d C d e d C A G E G E G A A A G A  
 C C d C d e d C A A G A e g e e d C d d d C d e d C A G E  
 G C B A A A G A C C d C d e d C A A G A

## An Introduction to Irish Tin Whistle and Flute Ornamentation

The tin whistle's most honored and prominent home is in the traditional music of Ireland, where it shares a playing style and a language of ornamentation with the Irish flute and uilleann pipes (the Irish bagpipe). The fingerings for these three instruments are nearly identical, and learning the whistle provides excellent preparation for learning the others. Ornamentation techniques are virtually the same on whistle and Irish flute.

The influence of traditional Irish wind instrument styles extends well beyond the country's borders. Many musicians in other Celtic cultures have adapted and absorbed Irish ornamentation techniques into their own manner of playing.

The Irish style of whistle playing is very dear to my heart. I explore its great sophistication and variety in my books *The Essential Guide to Irish Flute and Tin Whistle* and *The Essential Tin Whistle Toolbox*. You can view excerpts from these and my other books online at [melbay.com](http://melbay.com).

As I bring this book to a close, I'll leave you with a taste of the beautiful sounds of traditional Irish whistle playing and some insights into how you can learn to make them.

You may find the following ornamentation techniques to be rather challenging. If so, I hope you'll enjoy at least becoming acquainted with them. For those who feel moved to learn more about traditional Irish music, this introduction will begin to illuminate how its idiomatic sounds are made and demonstrate how phrasing and embellishment can be improvised.