

# Sandy River Belle

Key: G  
♩ = 90

Traditional  
Arr. Pete Showman

5

9

13

Some say the tune is named for a woman but both the sound and the name make me think of a paddle-wheel steamer. (As Alan Jabbour noted in his Library of Congress notes on Henry Reed's version, river steamers often had such names.) Partly for that reason I like it at a moderate tempo, maybe 90 to 100 bpm.

I also like the sound of it on a clawhammer banjo, so I like to play it with a lot of eighth notes to keep some of that feel, and with cross-string slurs that remind me of banjo pull-offs and hammer-ons.

This arrangement is more or less how I play it on the fiddle, though I vary the bowing, slurs and use of drones some from one time to the next; what's shown here is only one of many possibilities. See the Fiddlers Fakebook for a smoother version. (I've always played it in G, but the version in the Fiddlers Fakebook that sounds most like this is notated in D.)

Arranged and typeset in ABC by Pete Showman, 2005; rev 2 7/19/2016.