

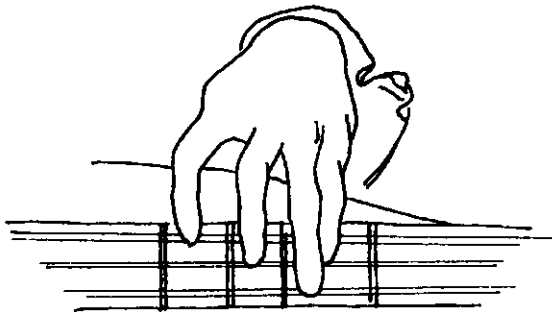
Conversations with the River

This song was originally written to be a fingerpicked song in the key of C-sharp; here we play it strummed and flat-picked in D. To accent the delicate high end we play our dulcimers in a cross-picked arpeggio style. As the melody moves through the chord changes, the timbre of the instruments create sounds reminiscent of both a harp and an organ. One dulcimer provides a melodic moving bass line akin to a cello voicing. The other concentrates on sliding chords and on articulating the high end. The harp-effect is created when a flat-picked sequence is suddenly suspended for one quick, brushed upstroke, used as an accent. The tune is a duet in the sense that a common theme is expressed which is not possible with only one dulcimer. The second time through the main body of the piece, we add a little more bounce to the rhythm. The vocal part can easily be stretched to fill any amount of space. Often, we sing the words for several verse lengths. Albert is fond of adding one note of discord to the coda. He feels it adds just a little taste of tension to the otherwise idyllic close.

The song is dedicated to Captain Leeboard Bob of the Pilgrim and Captain Black John of the Humorous Truth. Two finer ships never better graced Dolphin number nine, Sauvie Island bridge, Multnomah Channel, at the junction of the Willamette and the Great Columbia rivers.

LYRICS

Conversations with the river,
Going on forever,
Carrying my boat of song.



SEQUENCE: ABCC
ABCC
LYRIC
CC