

DIXIE

We have played this tune in quick-step march tempo. The dulcimers are bouncing the melody line between them while extending their harmonic range through the use of non-parallel chordal stops. An effective use of syncopation creates overtones which help the melody to seem independent of either instrument. The easy, regular flow of the song gives it a soft Southern lilt. This arrangement utilizes the slide and emphasizes pull-offs whose note-center is more than one fret away. *Dixie* also plays well within a cakewalk or shuffle rhythm. Originally Emmett (one of the most gifted tunesmiths of his day) wrote this song to be a "walk-around" for his black-face minstrel troupe and first performed it in New York in the fall of 1859. As the popularity of the tune spread, it became a natural to win the affection of people in the South especially as state after state swept into Secession. Moreover, Confederate Brigadier General Albert Pike wrote new words around the "I'll live and die in Dixie" theme, and by general acclaim it became the National Anthem of the Confederacy. *Dixie's Land*, as it was first named by Emmett, became shortened to *Dixie*, by which name we know it today.

The lyrics we've included are the original version of the song. Our only alteration is to present the words without the black-face parody of inflection which substitutes *b* for *v* and *d* for *th* (trabble becomes travel, and den becomes then). We conclude our ending of the tune *con grandezza* – with grandeur.