

# SING SAILOR

This song took about six years to reach the form it has today. Three different songs sharing a common melodic theme and similar verse ideas finally flowed together to create a fourth song one afternoon on the front porch steps in Washington D.C. The rhythm of the tune follows the feel of the rise and fall of a sailing ship on a gently rolling sea.

Lead-line techniques are emphasized using trills and ornamental notes in a gliding motion up and down the scale. The actual melody is played easily; one two-step chord sets up the turn-around. The drones are allowed to dominate the harmony and create a backdrop for the embellishments. When the drones resonate so fully against the treble-voiced lead, you have to be careful not to let them overpower the melody. Angling the pick toward the treble strings while strumming helps keep the drones under control. The idea is to hit the drones just often enough to keep them ringing. This sustain blends with the use of vibrato techniques on the treble strings. In our duet arrangement, one of us plays on the bass string and the other on the treble – except, of course, during the two-stop chord turn-around.

