

# CORNSTALK FIDDLE AND A SHOESTRING BOW

Two-Part Treble Voices with Piano  
and Optional Kazoos

American Folk Song  
Arranged by Mark Burrows

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Ranges:

Part 1



Part 2



Language: English  
Use: General/Festival  
Time: Approx. 1:47  
\*Difficulty: Moderate

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## Notes

The cornstalk fiddle is an American folk music instrument that predates the American Civil War. The fiddle is made by cutting slits into the cornstalk to fashion the strings. Next, a small piece of wood is slid under the strings to serve as a bridge. The fiddle can be played with a regular violin/fiddle bow, or one fashioned from another cornstalk, or even a shoestring.

The cornstalk fiddle is referenced in popular folk songs, such as *Cotton Eye Joe*, and even in the poem *The Cornstalk Fiddle* by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

This arrangement has tried to capture the fun and energy of a hoedown, complete with stomps, pats, and...kazoos?! Well, unless you have some expert cornstalk fiddlers in your midst, kazoos will have to do.

The kazoo part (mm. 47-56 and mm. 75-end) may be played by the entire group, or by a soloist/small group.

If a soloist/small group is utilized, you can have a few choir members shout out encouragement during the kazoo part, such as:

“Oo-ee!”

“That shore is some fine playin’!”

“Yep, mighty fine!”

One recommendation is to use yarn and tape to make “kazoo necklaces” for the choir members. That way, they won’t have to hold (and possibly drop) their kazoos throughout the entire song.

## About the Arranger

Mark Burrows is a writer, composer and clinician whose works are published by many major houses. His choral pieces, musicals and music education resources top numerous best-seller lists.

Known to little listeners as “Mister Mark,” he tours the nation performing concerts for children and families. His award-winning music can be heard on Sirius XM Radio. One song, *Amazon Rock*, was recorded by Nick Records for a Dora the Explorer album.

Mark received his undergraduate degree in music education from Southern Methodist University, and his graduate degree in conducting from Texas Christian University. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

# Cornstalk Fiddle and a Shoestring Bow

for Two-Part Treble Voices with Piano and opt. Kazoos

Traditional

Arranged by Mark Burrows

Hoedown (♩ = ca. 172–176)

Piano

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. The right hand features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a simple bass line with some rests.

4 Stomp Pat

Measures 4-7 of the piano accompaniment. Measure 4 includes the instruction 'Stomp Pat' above the staff. The music continues with a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes in both hands.

8

Measures 8-11. Measures 8 and 9 contain the vocal melody for two parts, with lyrics: 'I made me a fid - dle and I made me a bow, and I'. The piano accompaniment continues in the background.

Measures 10-13 of the piano accompaniment, continuing the musical texture with chords and moving lines in both hands.



learned to play the fid - dle like Cot - ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a

learned to play the fid - dle like Cot - ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a

This block contains the musical notation for measures 11 through 13. It features a vocal line with two staves and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The lyrics are: "learned to play the fid - dle like Cot - ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a". The piano part includes chords and a bass line.



shoe - string bow, \_\_\_\_\_ and if that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know.

shoe - string bow, \_\_\_\_\_ and if that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 14 through 16. It features a vocal line with two staves and a piano accompaniment with two staves. The lyrics are: "shoe - string bow, \_\_\_\_\_ and if that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know." The piano part includes chords and a bass line.

18

Musical score for measures 18-21. The score is written for three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment line in the middle, and a grand staff (treble and bass clef) at the bottom. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 18, followed by a half note in measure 19, and then a whole note in measure 20. The piano accompaniment line has whole rests in measures 18-19 and a half note in measure 20. The grand staff features a complex harmonic structure with various chords and melodic lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading "For Promotional use only" is overlaid across the score. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in measure 20.

22

Musical score for measures 22-25. The score is written for three staves: a vocal line at the top, a piano accompaniment line in the middle, and a grand staff (treble and bass clef) at the bottom. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 22, followed by a half note in measure 23, and then a whole note in measure 24. The piano accompaniment line has whole rests in measures 22-23 and a half note in measure 24. The grand staff features a complex harmonic structure with various chords and melodic lines. A large, diagonal watermark reading "For Promotional use only" is overlaid across the score. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in measure 24.

Tuned my fid - dle, but I

tuned my fid - dle and I went to a dance. I tried to make mu - sic but I

ne - ver got a chance. Corn - stalk fid - dle, \_\_\_\_\_

ne - ver got a chance. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a shoe - string bow, \_\_\_\_\_

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*mf*

It's the ve - ry best fid - dle in the coun - ty - o!

*mf*

It's the ve - ry best fid - dle in the coun - ty - o!

*mf*



Measures 39-41 of a musical score. The score is written for three parts: a vocal line (top), a piano accompaniment (middle), and a bass line (bottom). The vocal line is in treble clef and contains the lyrics: "Corn - stalk fid - dle and a shoe - string bow, \_\_\_\_\_ and if". The piano accompaniment is in treble clef and contains the same lyrics. The bass line is in bass clef and contains the same lyrics. A large red watermark "For Promotional use only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Measures 42-45 of a musical score. The score is written for three parts: a vocal line (top), a piano accompaniment (middle), and a bass line (bottom). The vocal line is in treble clef and contains the lyrics: "that ain't a - fid - dl - in' then I don't know." The piano accompaniment is in treble clef and contains the same lyrics. The bass line is in bass clef and contains the same lyrics. A large red watermark "For Promotional use only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.



46

Musical score for measures 46-50. The score is written for three staves: a top staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), and two lower staves for piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The top staff begins with a double bar line and a key signature change to one sharp. It contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The two lower staves are marked with "\* Kazoo:" and contain a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. A large red watermark "For promotional use only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

51

Musical score for measures 51-55. The score is written for three staves: a top staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), and two lower staves for piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The top staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The two lower staves contain a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. A large red watermark "For promotional use only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

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*cresc.*

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*f*

Lots of fid - dles,

*f*

I've made lots of fid - dles and I've made lots of bows, but I

*f*

63

like Cot-ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle, \_\_\_\_\_

ne - ver learned to fid - dle like Cot-ton-Eyed Joe. Corn - stalk fid - dle and a

66

It's the ve-ry best fid - dle, \_\_\_\_\_

shoe-string bow. \_\_\_\_\_ It's the

It's the ve-ry best fid-dle in the coun-ty -

ve-ry best fid-dle, It's the ve-ry best fid-dle in the coun-ty -

Kazoo:

o!

Kazoo:

o!

