

Desert Bluegrass Workshop

Year 1 - Session 2

The Carter Family



The Carter Family (A. P. Carter, Sara Carter, and Maybelle Carter) is a traditional American folk music group that recorded between 1927 and 1956. Their music had a profound impact on bluegrass, country, Southern Gospel, pop and rock musicians as well as on the U.S. folk revival of the 1960s.

1. **Bury Me Beneath the Willow**
2. **Thinking Tonight of my Blue Eyes**
3. **You're Gonna Be Sorry**
4. **Will the Circle Be Unbroken**
5. **Foggy Mountain Top**
6. **Worried Man Blues**
7. **East Virginia Blues**

Bury Me Beneath the Willow

Progression 1:

My heart is sad and I am lonely
For the only one I love
When shall I see her? Oh, no, never
'Til we meet in heaven above

1 1 4 4
1 1 5 5
1 1 4 4
1 5 1 1

Bury me beneath the willow
Under the weeping willow tree
So she will know where I am sleeping
And perhaps she'll weep for me

Tomorrow was to be our wedding
God, oh God, where can she be
She's gone a-courting with another
And no longer cares for me

She told me that she did not love me
I could not believe t'was true
Until an angel softly whispered
She no longer cares for you

Place on my grave a snow white lily
To prove my love for her was true
To show the world I died of grieving
For her love I could not win

Thinking Tonight of my Blue Eyes

Progression 2:

It would've been better for us both had we never
In this wide and wicked world had never met,
For the pleasures we've both seen together
I'm sure, love, I'll never forget

1 1 4 4

5 5 1 1

1 1 4 4

5 5 1 1

Oh, I'm thinking tonight of my blue eyes
Who is sailing far over the sea
Oh, I'm thinking tonight of my blue eyes
And I wonder if he ever thinks of me

Oh, you told me once, dear, that you loved me
You said that we never would part
But a link in the chain has been broken
Leaving me with a sad and aching heart

When the cold, cold grave shall enclose me
Will you come, dear, and shed just one tear?
And say to the strangers around you
A poor heart you have broken lies here?

You're gonna be sorry

Progression 3:

1 1 1 1

1 1 5 5

1 1 4 4

1 5 1 1

You told me once, dear, I was true and kind
You told me then, love, that you were mine
But now you tell me that you were blind
You like your parties and good times

I'm sorry darlin' cause you feel this way
But you told me truthful to my face
You found another to take my place
All dressed in diamonds, pearls and lace

I'm sorry darlin' cause you let me down
A truer love now you think you've found
But when I'm laid deep down in the ground
You're gonna be sorry you let me down

So now I've lost you but still have faith
That you will see the mistake you made
And when you find, dear, that you are wrong
You'll ask forgiveness and come back home

I believed you darlin' when you said to me
That we'd be happy, we'd be free
But now I've found, dear, a fault in thee
When we were wed, love, I could not see

Chorus

Will The Circle Be Unbroken

I was standing by my window
On one cold and cloudy day
When I saw that hearse come rolling
For to carry my mother away

Progression 4:

1 1 1 1

4 4 1 1

1 1 1 1

1 5 1 1

Will the circle be unbroken
Bye and bye Lord, by and by
There's a better home awaiting
In the sky Lord, in the sky

Well, I told the undertaker
Undertaker please drive slow
For that body you are carrying
Lord, I hate to see her go

Oh, I followed close behind her,
Tried to hold up and be brave
But I could not hide my sorrow
When they laid her in the grave

Went back home, Lord, my home was lonesome
Since my mother, she was gone
All my brothers, sisters crying
What a home so sad and alone

We sang those songs of childhood
Hymns of faith that made us strong
Ones that mother Maybelle taught us
Hear the angels sing along.

Foggy Mountain Top

Progression 5:

Now if you see that girl of mine
There's something you must tell her
She need not to fool her time away
To court some other feller

1 1 4 1
1 1 5 5
1 1 4 1
1 5 1 1

If I was on some foggy mountain top
I'd sail away to the West
I'd sail all around this whole wide world
To the girl I love the best

She caused me to weep, she caused me to mourn
She caused me to leave my home
To the lonesome pines and the good old times
I'm on my way back home

If I had listened to what my mama said
I would not be here today
Just lying around this old jailhouse
A' weeping my poor life away

Worried Man Blues

Progression 6:

1 1 1 1

4 4 1 1

5 5 1 1

12 Bar Blues

It takes a worried man to sing a worried song
It takes a worried man to sing a worried song
I'm worried now, but I won't be worried long

I went across the river, and I lay down to sleep
I went across the river, and I lay down to sleep
When I awoke, I had shackles on my feet

Twenty-nine links of chain around my leg
Twenty-nine links of chain around my leg
And on each link, an initial of my name

I asked the judge, what might be my fine?
I asked the judge, what might be my fine?
Twenty-one years on the R.C. Mountain Line

If anyone should ask you, who composed this song
If anyone should ask you, who composed this song
Tell them 'twas I and I sing it all day long

I looked down the track as far as I could see
I looked down the track as far as I could see
A little hand was waving after me

East Virginia Blues

Progression 7:

1 1 1 1

4 4 1 1

4 4 1 1

5 5 1 1

I was born in East Virginia

To North Carolina I did go

There I spied a fair young maiden

And her age I did not know

Her hair was dark in color

Her cheeks were rosy red

Upon her breast she wore white lilies

Where I longed, to lay my head

Oh, at my heart you are my darlin'

At my door you're welcome in

At my gate I'll always meet you

For you're the girl I tried to win

I'd rather be in some dark holler

Where the sun refused to shine

Than for you to be another man's darlin'

And to know you'll never be mine