

## **“Danny Boy (Londonderry Air)”**

Arrangement for solo guitar by Ted Greene, 1985-12-04

Here is Ted’s beautiful arrangement of “Danny Boy” for solo guitar that he wrote in 1985. In 1977 he recorded another version of it for his *Solo Guitar* album, and it’s considered by many to be a guitar masterpiece. This arrangement is not a transcription from that album, but instead a much simplified version that he used when teaching this song to his students. It includes many similar chord moves that appear on the recording, and will serve as an aid if you want to transcribe it from the album. Listen to Ted play it in order to get the general feel of the arrangement and some of his fills.

I’ve included Ted’s original page and his lead sheet, plus my compilation pages that align his chord diagrams with standard notation. I put the lyrics for “Londonderry Air” as the first verse, and “Danny Boy” as the second verse. Please note that there are a couple of places where Ted deviates from the given melody, and I’ve marked these with red notes. As with many of his arrangements for students, Ted did not include the names for the chords; that was the homework for the student. I’ve added the names in red.

Ted provided a few alternate variations for some of the passages, and I’ve aligned those variations above the main arrangement to make it easy to see how they fit together. For the last measure on p.2, either play the D chord and end with the G – F#m – Em – D, or go back to the head and play the “2nd time” A7sus to A9 pickup for a repeat. I indicated to play a D chord at the very end, even though Ted didn’t write this. I’m guessing he thought that was obvious, or he may have left it open-ended to allow a point for an interlude and/or modulation.

This is one of my favorite of Ted’s arrangements, and I’d be bold enough to say that if you could only learn one of his arrangements, this would be one of the best choices – it’s quintessential Ted Greene.

I hope these pages make it easy and fun to learn and play this piece.

Enjoy!

--Pau

# DANNY BOY (LONDONOERRY AIR)

© 1911-1925  
Ted Greene

SOLO GUITAR

Key of D

ALTERNATE  
2ND 1/2 OF 1ST LINE:

G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>(9)</sup> G Em<sup>7</sup> E<sup>9</sup> Gm<sup>6</sup>

A<sup>7</sup>SUS → A<sup>9</sup> D<sup>Δ</sup><sup>9</sup>

2ND TIMES

ALTERNATE  
TREATMENT

G<sup>Δ</sup><sup>7</sup> E<sup>7</sup> E<sup>9</sup> Gm

A<sup>11</sup> A<sup>7</sup>(b<sup>9</sup>) D<sup>Δ</sup><sup>9</sup> OPEN A<sup>7</sup> D<sup>9</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>(9)</sup> G E<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>Δ</sup><sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>6</sup>

Would God I were the ten - der ap - ple blos - som — That floats and  
Oh Dan - ny boy, the pipes, the pipes are call - ing — from glen to

OPEN D<sup>(9)</sup> D G<sup>Δ</sup><sup>7</sup> F<sup>♯</sup><sup>7</sup> F<sup>♯</sup>/A<sup>♯</sup> Bm<sup>7</sup> OPEN E<sup>7</sup> OPEN B<sup>b</sup><sup>9</sup> A<sup>9</sup> A<sup>7</sup>SUS

falls from off the twist - ed bough, — to lie and  
glen and down the moun - tain side. — The sum - mer's

D<sup>Δ</sup><sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>9</sup> D<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> C G Gm<sup>7</sup>/<sub>6</sub>

faint gone with - in your silk - en bo - som, with - in your silk - en  
and all the flow - ers dy - ing, 'tis you, 'tis you must

D G<sup>Δ</sup><sup>7</sup> F<sup>♯</sup><sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup>(b<sup>5</sup>) Bm<sup>11</sup> OPEN E<sup>7</sup> A<sup>9</sup> A<sup>7</sup>(b<sup>9</sup>) D G<sup>(9)</sup> D A<sup>11</sup>

bo - - - som, as that does now! — Or would I  
go and I must — bide. — But come you

# DANNY BOY

D(9) F#7 G(#11) GΔ<sup>9</sup>(b5) → G7 F#m7 F#/A# Bm Bb D Em11 A13 A9

were a lit - tle bur - nished ap - ple. for you to  
 back when sum - mer's in the mea - dow, or when the

Bm7 F#7/E G(#11) F#m11/E → B7 E7 Bb9 A9 A7sus A13 Eb9(b5)

pluck me, glid - ing by so cold, while sun and  
 val - ley's hushed and white with snow. 'Tis I'll be

D<sup>9</sup> D<sup>13</sup> G<sup>6</sup> E7 D F#7(#5) Bm<sup>(9)</sup> Gm7

shade your robe of lawn will dap - ple, your robe of  
 there in sun - shine or in sha - dow, Oh Dan - ny

ALTERNATE 2 LAST SECTION:

D(9) G<sup>6</sup> D Bm7 E<sup>9</sup> Bb7 A11 D(9) GΔ<sup>7</sup> D(9) BmΔ<sup>7</sup> E<sup>13</sup> Bb<sup>9</sup> A11 A7sus(b9) D (G) G F#m7 Em → D

lawn, and your hair's spun gold.  
 boy, Oh Dan - ny boy I love you so.

Key of D

The image contains handwritten guitar tablature for the song "Danny Boy" in the key of D major. It consists of 12 fretboard diagrams arranged in a grid, with various annotations and fingerings:

- Diagram 1:** Shows a sequence of chords with fingerings 2, 3, 2, 2, 5, 7, 7, 3, 7, 4, 4, 5.
- Diagram 2:** Includes the annotation "ALTERNATE TREATMENT" and fingerings 3, 4, 3, 2, 6, 5, 2, 3, 2, 4, 7, 6.
- Diagram 3:** Includes the annotation "opt. add X on 1st too" and fingerings 3, 2, 5, 5, 10, 10, 7, 10, 7, 6.
- Diagram 4:** Includes the annotation "open" and fingerings 5, 4, 9, 7, 7, 5, 6, 4, 2, 2, 2.
- Diagram 5:** Includes the annotation "open" and fingerings 10, 12, 10, 9, 10, 10, 7, 4, 4, 3, 4, 5.
- Diagram 6:** Includes the annotation "open" and fingerings 5, 9, 7, 11, 9, 5, 3, 3, 2, 10, 10, 10.
- Diagram 7:** Includes the annotation "open" and fingerings 9, 9, 9, 9, 5, 2, 7, 3, 2, 3, 4.
- Diagram 8:** Includes the annotation "open" and fingerings 7, 5, 3, 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2.
- Diagram 9:** Includes the annotation "ALTERNATE LAST SECTION:" and fingerings 2, 3, 3, 2, 1, 3, 3.
- Diagram 10:** Includes the annotation "ALTERNATE 2ND 1/2 OF 1ST LINE:" and fingerings 3, 7, 4, 2, 6, 3, 2, 4.
- Diagram 11:** Shows a sequence of empty fretboards with the annotation "etc." below the first one.



"DANNY BOY"

# LONDONDERRY AIR

(Would God I Were The Tender Apple Blossom)

TRADITIONAL

Transcription by Hugo Frey

Slowly

Would God I were the ten-der ap - ple blos - som That floats and  
 falls from off the twist - ed bough, To lie and faint with-in your silk-en  
 bo - som, with-in your silk-en bo - som, As that does now! Or would I  
 were a lit-tle bur-nish'd ap - ple For you to pluck me, glid-ing by so  
 cold, While sun and shade your robe of lawn will dap - ple, your robe of  
 lawn, And your hair's spun gold.

Chords: Eb, Ab, Eb, Cm, F7, F7-5, Bb7, Eb, Eb7, Ab, Bb7, Eb, F#dim, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb, Ab, Bb7, Cm, Ab, Eb, F7, Abm, Bb7, Gm, Bb7, Eb7, Ab, Eb, Cm, F7, Abm, Eb, Ab, Eb, Eb+, Ab, Bb7, Eb