

Beginners Jam Songs February 2026

Cripple Creek (Key = G)

Lonesome Road Blues (Key = G)

Wabash Cannonball (Key = G)

Wildwood Flower (Key = E)

Will the Circle Be Unbroken (Key = G)

Song lyrics and chord charts to follow.

Cripple Creek

1 I got a gal at the **4** head of the **1** creek
I'm going up to see her 'bout the **5** middle of the **1** week
Kiss her on the mouth just as **4** sweet as any **1** wine
She wraps herself around me like a **5** sweet potato **1** vine

Chorus:

1 Going up Cripple Creek going at a run
Going up Cripple Creek to **5** have a little **1** fun
Going up Cripple Creek going in a whirl
Going up Cripple Creek to **5** see my **1** girl

Verses:

I got a girl and she loves me
She's as sweet as sweet can be
She's got eyes of baby blue
And all my love for her is true

Girls up Cripple Creek about half grown
They jump on a man like a dog on a bone
They sit their pretty selves down in the shade
Waiting for the money that the men have made

Cripple Creek wide Cripple Creek deep
Wade old Cripple Creek before I sleep
I roll my britches up to my knees
And wade old Cripple Creek whenever I please



Robin Ruddy teaching banjo class.

Lonesome Road Blues

1 I'm going down that long lonesome road
4 Going down that long lonesome **1** road
4 Going down that long lonesome **1** road lord lord
And I **5** ain't gonna be treated this a- **1** way

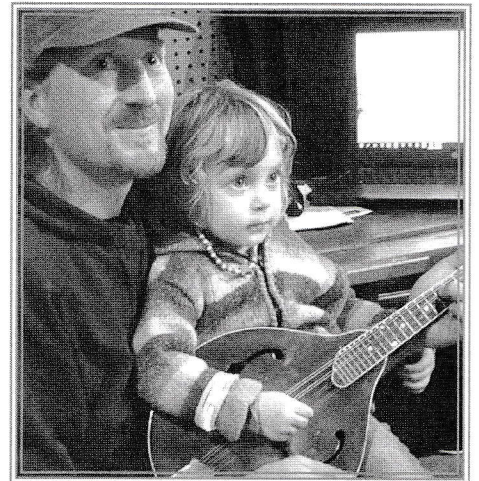
Verses:

Two dollar shoes on my feet
Two dollar shoes on my feet
Two dollar shoes on my feet lord lord
And I ain't gonna be treated this a-way

(To make a verse, sing a line three times, then sing:
"And I ain't gonna be treated this a-way.")

I'm going down that road feeling bad
Ten dollar shoes fit me fine
Going where the climate suits my clothes
I'm way down in jail on my knees
They feed me on cornbread and beans
Going where the chilly winds don't blow
My teachers are making me work hard
Big man thinks he runs my life
I'm going back to see my ma and pa

(Make up your own!)



Jam students at Wernick Method class
in the Czech Republic.

Wabash Cannonball

1 From the great Atlantic Ocean to the wide Pacific **4** shore
To the **5** green and flowing mountains and the southland by the **1** shore
She's mighty tall and handsome and known quite well by **4** all
She's a **5** modern combination on the Wabash Cannon- **1** -ball

Chorus:

1 Listen to the jingle, the rumble and the **4** roar
As she **5** glides along the woodlands over hills and by the **1** shore
Hear the mighty rush of the engine, and hear the lonesome hobo's **4** call
You're **5** traveling through the jungle on the Wabash Cannon- **1** -ball

Verses:

The eastern states are dandy so the people always say
From New York to St. Louis and Chicago by the way
From the hills of Minnesota where the rippling waters fall
No chances will be taken on the Wabash Cannonball

She came down from Birmingham one cold December day
As she pulled into the station you could hear all the people say
There's a gal from Tennessee she's long and she's tall
She came down from Birmingham on the Wabash Cannonball

Now here's to Daddy Claxton may his name forever stand
And always be remembered in the courts throughout the land
His earthly race is over and the curtains round him fall
We'll carry him home to victory on the Wabash Cannonball

Wildwood Flower

Traditional

Recorded: The Carter Family 1928

1 Oh, I'll twine with my mingles and 5 raven black 1 hair
With the roses so red and the 5 lilies so 1 fair
And the myrtle so bright with the 4 emerald 1 hue
The pale amanita and 5 eyes look like 1 blue

I will dance, I will sing and my laugh shall be gay
I will charm every heart, in his crown I will sway
When I woke from my dreaming, my idol was clay
All portion of love had all flown away

Oh, he taught me to love him and promised to love
And to cherish me over all others above
How my heart is now wondering, no misery can tell
He's left me no warning, no words of farewell

Oh, he taught me to love him and called me his flower
That was blooming to cheer him through life's dreary hour
Oh, I long to see him and regret the dark hour
He's gone and neglected his pale wildwood flower.

Will The Circle Be Unbroken

1 I was standing by my window
On a **4** cold and cloudy **1** day
When I saw that hearse come rolling
For to carry my **5** mother a- **1** way

Chorus:

1 Will the circle be unbroken
By and **4** by lord by and **1** by
There's a better home awaiting
In the sky lord **5** in the **1** sky

Verses:

Lord I told that undertaker
Undertaker please drive slow
For this body that you're hauling
Lord I hate to see her go

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

I went back home home was lonely
Now my mother she has gone
All my brothers sisters crying
What a home so sad and alone

