

Beginning Tunes

Boil Them Cabbage Down is a great beginning fiddle tune because the first part (the "A Part") is played just on the A string. Many people play only the A part of this tune and sing the words,



Boil them cabbage down, boys
Bake them hoecakes brown, boys
Only tune that I can play is
Boil them cabbage down, boys

I learned the second part ("B part") just this spring from one of my students at Maine Fiddle Camp. I haven't heard it from anyone else, but it is a good introduction to the open E string.

→ Make sure to start out all pieces with a downbow unless the music tells you otherwise. A downbow on the E string means your bowing hand should be moving towards the floor.

Boil Them Cabbage Down

The musical score for "Boil Them Cabbage Down" is presented in four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system (measures 1-4) shows the A part with notes on the A string and fingerings 2, 2, 2, 2 for A and 3, 3 for D. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the A part with notes on the A string and fingerings 2, 2, 2, 2 for A, 3, 3, 3, 3 for D, and 2, 2, 1, 1 for A and E. The third system (measures 9-12) shows the B part with notes on the A string and fingerings 2, 0, 0, 2 for A and 0, 0 for D, and 2, 0, 0, 2 for A and E. The fourth system (measures 13-16) continues the B part with notes on the A string and fingerings 2, 2, 2, 2 for A, 3, 3, 3, 3 for D, and 2, 2, 1, 1 for A and E. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.