

# Arranging Waltzes

## General Playing Suggestions:

Play rhythmically - accent the first beat of each measure (1 2 3, 1 2 3...)

Play deliberately/assertively, with feeling

Hold hammers loosely – relax!

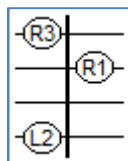
Feeling of “laying down” your arms

Left hand lead or play with alternating hands?

## Simple Arranging Ideas

On the 1<sup>st</sup> beat of each measure (especially when a chord changes) reinforce the rhythm by:

- Adding a double-strike or flamed accent note
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> note of the strike is another note in the current chord, and is usually a lower note than the melody note, and usually on a bridge to the right of where the melody note is
  - Usually the melody note is played with your left hand, the complimenting note with your right hand
  - Can be played delicately or strongly (dynamics) as needed
- Playing a chord/arpeggio
  - Right triad pattern whenever possible
  - Always end on the melody note
  - Begin slightly ahead of the beat so the last note is played on the beat



Alternate double-strikes with chords/arpeggios (example: Greensleeves)

Reinforce the “feeling” of the music

- Use more double-strikes (and valley rolls) for more delicate phrases or sections
- Use more chords and arpeggios where there is a buildup or the melody is more dramatic
- In many waltzes the A part is more delicate and the B part is more dramatic (often ending delicately)

## Arranging Waltzes

When playing on the upper courses of your dulcimer it can often sound like bells, which can benefit more from double-strikes than playing chords or arpeggios

### Some More Advanced Arranging Ideas

Fill (some) spaces (where there are long notes) with arpeggios or complimenting (bass) notes

Look for descending or ascending bass lines

Intros and Outros

### *Shepherd's Wife Waltz*

A part – strictly left hand lead

2 note Flams - play right hand “limp”, “sloppy” - slightly behind the beat

Note that the more delicate A part is all double strikes, and the more dramatic building B part has chord arpeggios

### *Galacian Waltz*

Play with alternating hands, leading with your right

In key of C – played high on your dulcimer – sounds like bells

Note that the more delicate A part is all double strikes, and the more dramatic building B part has chord arpeggios

Note also in measures 3 and 4 that the complimentary double-strike note is played above the melody note – what does this sound/feel like?

Note variations (at bottom of page 2) where

- A chord replaces a double-strike (meas. 7)
- An arpeggio replaces some melody notes to add more drama (meas. 25)