

# Steel-String

## "The South Wind"

BY JOHN RENBOURN

**A**LTHOUGH tunes like "The South Wind" were traditionally played on the harp, the uilleann pipes, the wooden flute, or the fiddle, guitarists in the British Isles have recently come up with ways of playing Irish music on the steel-string acoustic. This month's music sets the melody mainly on the lower strings. The arrangement uses DADGBD tuning, with the first and sixth strings lowered a whole-step.

This piece is commonly played as an air

rather than a dance tune, so it's most effective when taken slowly and freely. The left-hand fingering is straightforward. Aim for a spacious harp-like feel with plenty of sustain. Make the most of the slides and the grace notes that decorate the melody on the lower strings, and take your time with bar 13's second-string bend.

I've always thought that "The South Wind" had lyrics, but since I never came across the words to it I wrote some of my

own. The result, which utilizes this arrangement, can be heard on Flying Fish's *John Renbourn's Ship Of Fools*. Good luck until we transfer the melody to the treble strings in my next installment. ■



A founding member of the jazz-folk ensemble Pentangle, John Renbourn has many books and solo albums to his credit.

## "The South Wind"

Traditional, arranged by John Renbourn

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