

# SWANEE

gDGBD

G.GERSHWIN I.CAESAR  
1919

Bars 23 and 39: Double brush thumps. Do not break rhythm but play straight into next bar. It's a very useful technique for maintaining the frailing action instead of rests. Used quite often by Tim Jumper in his excellent book "The Banjo Players Songbook" (Oak Publications).

Bar43 : Four clean downstrokes. Try it first with the top 4 notes in line 4-1-4-1 until you get the feel and then add the full 2note brushes.

"Swanee" was written in 1919 by George Gershwin, with lyrics by Irving Caesar.

It is partly a parody of "Old Folks at Home", including the title in its lyrics.

Al Jolson heard it and included it in his successful show Sinbad, He recorded it for Columbia Records in January 1920

It hit the charts in 1920 and stayed there for 18 weeks . Nine of them at No 1.

It sold a million sheet music copies and over two million records

Jolson recorded the song several times in his career and performed it in several films.

For over a hundred years the song has surfaced time and time again. Indeed it seems almost timeless.

Among many artists who have recorded the song are

Judy Garland (at least 3 times) Bing Crosby (numerous recordings) Connie Francis – The Temptations – Paul Simon – and even The Muppets