

MOUSIE HIWAY

*The Adventures of
Banjo Mouse in Appalachia*

It was a fun, exciting goal ... put on hold for a while.

Before the arrival of the twins I resurrected a song and story that I've kept dormant in my mental vault for a while and decided it was time ... I want to write a series of children's books, draw the illustrations myself and publish them.

"How hard can it be?" I said to myself.

Yeah, pretty hard.

Mousie HiWay: The Adventures of Banjo Mouse in Appalachia would be the first in a series of children's books that involve music, a good story, a fun character, a valid lesson and a CD recording with the song and me reading the book as well. A musical print & audio book in one.

Alas, life, schedules and energy are not my friend at the moment so the project is on hold. *Mousie HiWay*, the first of the series, is about a banjo playing mouse that travels Appalachia, meeting other musicians and forming the *Mousie HiWay Band*. I hope to start the project again soon. If all goes well, I want hold my twins in my lap someday, reading this to them.

This feels funny because I never stop anything. Ever.

The story and accompanying CD would introduce the sound of the banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dobro and bass to young ears in a fun way. I'm not aware of another bluegrass-related children's book like this.

I like the story. It's a bluegrass lesson about bluegrass music
And the rhymes.

And it's based somewhat on fact. It's true: I actually did live in Mousie, Kentucky and Blue Moon Mountain separated the little hamlet from Hindman, KY, the county seat and yes, I traveled the hollers with my banjo. Although I myself am not a mouse.

So, here is the story, read it with a 4/4 hiphop style tempo, find the phrasing. I'm including an early sketch of the Banjo Mouse character. Read it to your kids if you want. Actually, it would be great if you created your own pictures to go with the story.

Make your own children's book.

Heck, why not? *How hard can it be?*

Mousie HiWay

Words & Music

©Michael Johnathon/RachelAubreyMusic/BMI

Banjo - Performed in the key of G

Tuning: gDGBD

TAB 2/4

Up and down the Mou-sie high-way, Blue Moon Moun-tain here we go.

Up and down the Mou-sie high-way, coun-ty line not far to go.

Up, — down the Mou-sie high-way, sing-ing eve-ry song we know.

Friend-ly peo-ple wav-ing my way, play-ing on — that old ban-jo.

MOUSIE HIWAY

The Adventures of Banjo Mouse in Appalachia

Characters:

Banjo Mouse, Fiddle Fox, Doggy Dobro,
Mando Moose and Little Bitty Beaver



**This is a Folk-Hip-Hop-Rap
to a 4/4 bluegrass vamp ... really.**

This is the adventures of Banjo Mouse
He didn't have a bed and he didn't have a house
But he had a lot friends where ever he'd go
'cause he knew a bunch of songs on the ol' banjo

Then one night in the Appalachian hills
He heard a lonesome sound and everything got still
In the silvery moon just sittin' on a rock
He found a new friend named Fiddle Fox

Well, he and Fiddle Fox played all night long
They played a lot of tunes, sang a lot of songs
But when the sun came up they had no place to go
till they met a new friend named Doggy Dobro

When Doggy played the ‘bro he could bend those notes
He would bend them up high and bend them down low
with the fiddle and the banjo they would laugh and shout
It was a dream come true for Banjo Mouse

Now, the whole band knew that something was a-missin’
You could hear it so plain, you could hear it if you listen
So they mumbled and they grumbled till they heard the truth
When up from a holler came Mando Moose

Mando Moose had mando luv’in’
He could play his mandolin, even when he was a-runnin’
He could play it so fast he had everybody shoutin’
And it echoed through the hollers of Blue Moon Mountain

Now, Banjo Mouse knew they wouldn’t get far
They had a real fine band but they needed one more.
So he wondered and he pondered and he wished upon a star
And down from a hill came Kitty Guitar

She was a six-string Kitty that could pick and sing
Banjo Mouse could made the banjo ring
No one played the fiddle like Fiddle Fox could
and Doggy Dobro made the song sound good

But Banjo Mouse stopped and said “hey wait a minute...”
we have a real fine band but there’s something not in it
We all want to play a real big show
but the show won’t go unless we play it down low

And then though the bushes came a rumblin’ sound
it shook all the trees and it rattled the ground
and down from the mountain with a smile on his face
came Little Bitty Beaver with a great big bass

Well, from Blue Moon Mountain to the hollers all around
the people all gathered for that bluegrass sound
and they sang and they cheered again and again
Everybody loves the Mousie HiWay Band!