

Since hearing a Laurie Lewis and the Right Hands perform Wild Rose of the Mountain live, this tune has drawn me in. Anything Kentucky fiddler J.P. Fraley recorded has impressed me and learning his repertoire is still a goal. I've dedicated a ["jukebox"](#) to him on my site, but it only has seven of his many tunes on it. Every one of them is appealing, some original, some traditional, some learned from his father.

In 1974 J.P. (short for Jesse Presley) released an album with *Wild Rose of the Mountain* as its title. His wife Annadeene accompanied him on guitar and when it was re-released as a CD ten years ago more tracks were included with the addition of their daughter, Danielle. This article in [Bluegrass Today](#) gives a short, but sweet biography of J.P. The liner notes in the CD, plus a second 1994 CD called *Maysville* (a tune covered in the [TOTW 6/23/17](#)) give more anecdotes about his career and the festival the family hosted each year at their home.

The liner notes describe Wild Rose of the Mountain as a most-requested tune for J.P. to play. He learned it from a friend, June Rice, who played it over and over for him until he got it all. The tune is called "deceptively simple" with its long-held notes. J.P. was told the song came from Bun Oney, a fiddling blacksmith who played it at the American Folk Song Festival. Its inspiration was a beautiful young lady who came to dances, danced with many young men, and left before the composer -- a fiddler playing for the dance -- could find a chance to get to know her, and so she seemed to him to be like a "wild rose of the mountains."

Here are some samples of Wild Rose of the Mountains:

[J P at Clifftop, 1993](#)

[J P, Annadeene and Aly Blaine](#)

[Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum medley](#)

[Yigal Zan and David Margolin](#)