

TOTW, Lost Boy and Lost Girl, 8-9-24

Two great old-time players – Adam Hurt and Bruce Molsky -- drew me to love these two tunes, which are said to be related, or as the [Traditional Tune Archive](#) puts it, they're companions. Adam played an entrancing Lost Girl on piano on his 2006 CD "Insight". Bruce plays Lost Boy on fiddle and, in fact, has a 1996 CD titled "Lost Boy."

Lost Girl has been covered more times than Lost Boy and was a Tune of the Week almost fifteen years ago: [Lost Girl--TOTW 8/14/09](#). Both tunes were originally recorded by John Salyer between 1940-41: [Lost Girl](#) and [Lost Boy](#). The two tunes make a nice medley in open G tuning, though other clawhammer banjo tunings can do them justice. See the tab pdf below for four versions of Lost Girl.

Clyde Davenport (as played here by [Abigail Gruber](#)), [Walter McNew](#), Melvin Wine, [Dwight Diller](#) and [Emmett Lundy](#) are other significant fiddlers who passed on Lost Girl in Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia. It's surprising how different is each version. I was smitten with Adam Hurt's Lost Girl on piano. It was slower and conveyed great emotion. Here's [Adam](#) playing on banjo with Mike Compton and Stephanie Coleman in 2010. [Jim Pankey](#) does a nice clawhammer teaching video.

There aren't many videos to share of Lost Boy and according to Jeff Titon in his seminal book [Kentucky Fiddle Tunes](#), John Salyer was the only source he knew of. From the above link in the Traditional Tune Archive, "Bruce, commenting in Fiddler Magazine [1997-09-01], said 'Lost Boy' is pretty much '[Lost Girl](#),' but with the first part being in 9-time instead of 8" (though I'm not sure what he meant by that). Here are two videos of Lost Boy: [Bruce Molsky](#) and [Philip A. Lederer](#).

Hope you enjoy this week's TOTW two-fer and share more examples of the two tunes. And congrats to Adam for winning the clawhammer championship at Clifftop this year!