

# ALL THE GOOD TIMES

Traditional, From the Playing of David Schnauffer

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In 2006, the dulcimer world lost one its greatest talents and advocates, David L. Schnauffer, to a battle with cancer. He left behind legions of friends, admirers, and inspired dulcimer players who mourn his loss, and celebrate his life. His influence continues to spread as we continue to share what he taught us with others.

One of the tunes that David passed along was a traditional ballad called "*All the Good Times Are Past and Gone*". David discovered that this melody also went by the name of "*Six Months Ain't That Long A Time*". The exact origins of the tune are unknown, although we know that it pre-dates the Civil War. It was a mainstay in old-time music circles and for folk singers over the years. It was also a song used frequently by country music artists, such as Fred and Gertrude Gossett who recorded traditional country songs for Columbia Records. One of these was "*All the Good Times Are Past and Gone*", recorded in 1930, which appears to have been the earliest recording of this popular ballad. The song gained popularity in bluegrass circles, however, following the recording by the Monroe Brothers in the 1950's.

In the late 1990's, with the help of his good friend Sandy Conatser, David started researching the history, mystery, and revival of the Tennessee Music Box. While these instruments may appear rather crude and primitive, they are capable of a wonderfully full and rich tone. David spent the last several years of his life unearthing and cataloging these instruments, and restored many of them to playable condition. In 1997, David released a solo recording entitled "*Tennessee Music Box*", which features these instruments on several of the cuts. The opening cut on that album is his arrangement of "*All the Good Times Are Past and Gone*", performed on one of these restored instruments.

This is a six part arrangement, starting with a basic "drone version" reminiscent of the sound of the music box. The other parts add backup, harmony, counter melody, and two chord melody versions.

In music and friendship,

~Tull