"DOWN THE ROAD"

You will hear this song played at most bluegrass festivals, coast-to-coast, on stage and in the campgrounds. One of the most famous versions is by Flatt & Scruggs. My arrangement closely follows theirs.
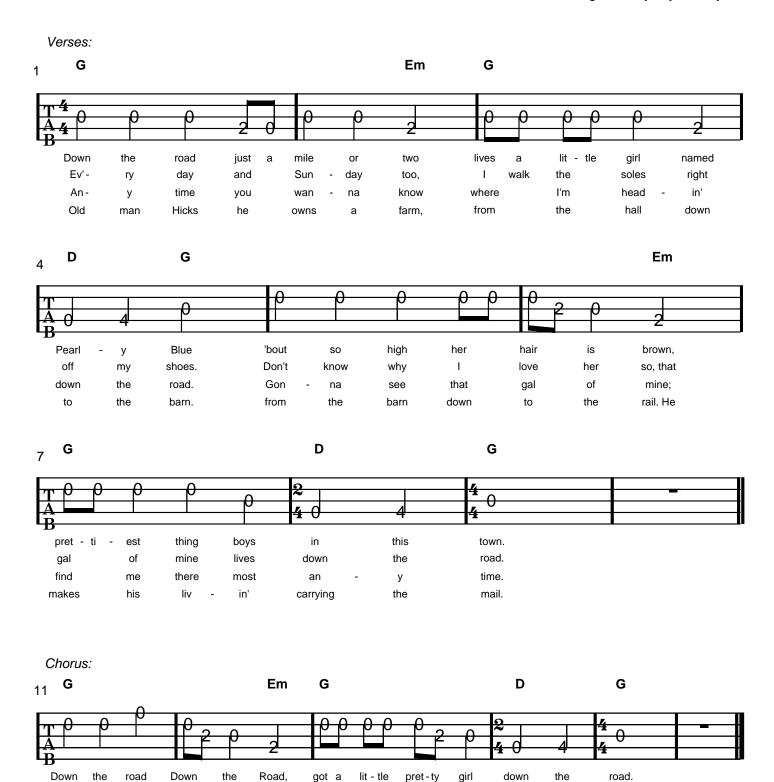
Performance Notes:

1. I chose the key of G for my arrangement. Flatt & Scruggs recorded it in A and other groups take it up another step to B. A lot depends on the vocalist. The key of G is a good place to start and work from there.

2. There are two Banjo solos. Solo 1 is rather straight forward, based on the classic Earl Scruggs version. Below the tab, there will be ***larger/bold*** letters. These are the melody notes. Play them a little harder to help the melody surface.

3. For Solo 2, I kept the Scruggs feel with the basic roll patterns that Earl was famous for, however, I put a little melodic flow keeping the notes ringing as long as possible. Measure two is a "brush" with the thumb, Ralph Stanley style. Keep the brush dramatic; "milk it" by making the brush similar to a big wide strum on the guitar; almost with a delayed feel, trailing the down beat. The left hand fingering is represented by the capitol letters above the tablature. These are, of course, only suggestions. Always feel free to experiment.

4. Measure nine is shortened into 2/4 time, then at measure ten, we go back to 4/4. This is a common feature in old-time-bluegrass. You'll find this similar "kick" effect in other songs, like "Clinch Mountain Backstep".

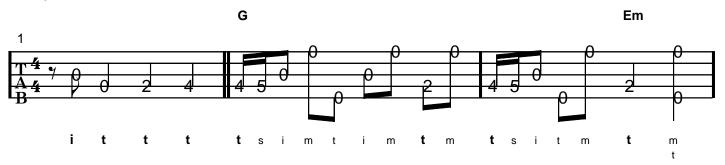5. Don't play this tune too fast; it should maintain a fast "walking" style with some punch.
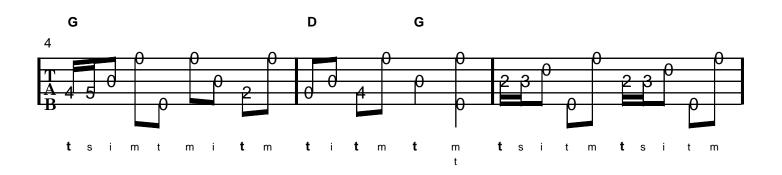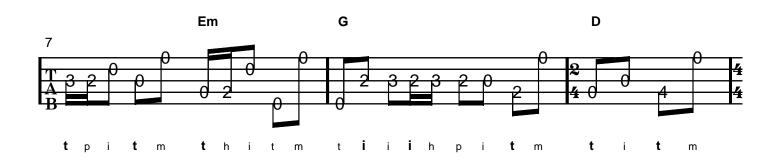
Down the Road

Verses:

Down   the   road   just   a   mile   or   two   lives   a   lit - tle   girl   named
Ev' -   ry   day   and   Sun - day   too,   I   walk   the   soles   right
An -   y   time   you   wan - na   know   where   I'm   head - in'
Old   man   Hicks   he   owns   a   farm,   from   the   hall   down

Pearl - y   Blue   'bout   so   high   her   hair   is   brown,
off   my   shoes.   Don't   know   why   I   love   her   so, that
down   the   road.   Gon - na   see   that   gal   of   mine;
to   the   barn.   from   the   barn   down   to   the   rail. He

pret - ti - est   thing   boys   in   this   town.
gal   of   mine   lives   down   the   road.
find   me   there   most   an - y   time.
makes   his   liv - in'   carrying   the   mail.

Chorus:

Down   the   road   Down   the   Road,   got   a   lit - tle   pret - ty   girl   down   the   road.
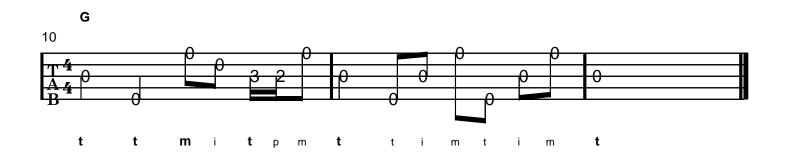
Banjo Solo 1:

The complete arrangement for "Down the Road", including:

- multiple Banjo solos
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
- with or without the Banjo
- with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

on this page:

Banjo: http://jaybuckey.com/music_pages/downloads/isd/banjo_isd.htm