

The Kitchen Girl

Traditional New England (arr. Pete Showman)

A Mixolydian

$\text{♩} = 90$ A Mixolydian / A Dorian

A Dorian

* I often play measure 5 the same as the first measure --- or sometimes like this:

** Another way to play measure 9 at the start of part 'B' (with a different pickup at the end of measure 8):

The way I play Kitchen Girl the two parts of the tune are in different modes: the high part is in A Mixolydian ("A mix."), with a C#, and the low part is in A Dorian, with a C natural. The Fiddlers Fakebook has both parts in A mix.

A few notes on modes

Musical modes correspond to different scales that start on the same note, using different combinations of natural notes and sharps or flats (the white and black keys on a piano). The seven standard European modes can also be found by playing scales using the same set of notes, such as just the white keys, but starting on different notes.

Two modes are familiar to most people who have experience with European-based music: Major and Minor. But especially in (European-based) folk music, the two modes used here are also common: Mixolydian and Dorian.

Within a key-name, these four modes can be ordered by how many sharps or flats are in the scale and key signature:

For A scales (tunes typically ending in A)

A Major 3 sharps, F#, C#, G#
 A Mixolydian 2 sharps, F#, C#
 A Dorian 1 sharp, F#
 A minor 0 sharps

For D scales (tunes typically ending in D)

D Major 2 sharps, F#, C#
 D Mixolydian 1 sharp, F#
 D Dorian 0 sharps
 D minor 1 flat, Bb

While three main chords are used to accompany Major and minor, only two are used for Mixolydian and Dorian. For example, these four modes when based on 'A' (scales that start on A) use mainly the following chords:

A Major: A, D & E (I IV V) A Mixolydian A & G (I & VII)
 A Minor: Am, Dm & Em (I- IV- V-) A Dorian: Am & G (I- & VII) (the VII chord is still major)

– Pete Showman

Typeset in abcm2ps. pss 3/3/07