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===== The song "Ashokan Farewell" was written by Jay Ungar in 1982. It is named after the Ashokan Field Campus of the State University of New York, where Ungar and Molly Mason taught music and dance workshops. The Fiddle Fever version of the piece became the title music for the PBS television series "The Civil War". Other versions of the song were used during the soundtrack of the series. Life is incredibly precious, and it's essential to remember how fragile we really are. So I hope some of you can find comfort in this piece if you're also remembering Bry today, and if not I hope you can also enjoy this wonderful piece of music. Jay Ungar was born in 1946 in the Bronx. He is primarily known as a folk musician and composer and he is certainly best-known for his lament, Ashokan Farewell. Jay married fellow folk musician, Molly Mason in 1991, where they continue to still write and perform together. They perform with their band, Swingology and popular folk-rock band, The Mammals. The Music Ashokan Farewell was named after a town under the same name. The purpose was also for a camp named after the town, which is up in the Catskill Mountains, New York. There both Ungar and Mason have run their Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camps for families, which began in 1980. Jay say this about the composition process of the work: "I was feeling a great sense of loss and longing for the music, the dancing and the community of people that had developed at Ashokan that summer. I was having trouble making the transition from a secluded woodland camp with a small group of people who needed little excuse to celebrate the joy of living, back to life as usual, with traffic, newscasts, telephones and impersonal relationships. By the time the tune took form, I was in tears. I kept it to myself for months, unable to fully understand the emotions that welled up whenever I played it. I had no idea that this simple tune could affectAshokan Farewell: A Timeless Folk Tune for the Ages

===== The Ashokan Farewell is a piece that has become synonymous with goodbyes, serving as a poignant farewell at the end of seasonal camps. Its iconic status is also due in part to its appearance in the television series The Civil War, cementing its connection to this beloved tune. This piece is perhaps most famous for its instrumental version, but it's equally beautiful when accompanied by lyrics. The song paints a vivid picture of a place called Ashokan, where the sun dips low in the sky and promises unspoken are carried on the wind. It speaks of memories that linger long after the music has stopped, and the longing to be reunited. There are two notable instrumental versions of Ashokan Farewell, each with its unique charm. The solo fiddle and guitar version sets a somber tone, while the Family Band's rendition brings warmth and unity to the piece. Both share a common thread - a slow waltz in D major that evokes the style of a Scottish lament. As a folk tune, every recording is a testament to the artist's interpretation, making each one unique. However, it's the Family Band version that has captured my heart, with its opening statement transporting me to the rolling hills and misty landscapes of Ashokan. The melody is both sorrowful and hopeful, reflecting the complexities of human emotion. As the instruments come together, creating a sense of unity and peace, I'm reminded of the power of music to bring us together. Ashokan Farewell has become an iconic piece in its own right, with countless arrangements for different ensembles. But for me, it will always be special because of the memory of Bry, who brought laughter and joy to everyone around her through her love of music. Have my trumpet with me so we can have a play! This farewell is only temporary. ===== The author invites the reader to bring their trumpet along to make music together. However, they mention that this goodbye is just a temporary one. The Open-Source License ----- This text is licensed under a Creative Commons license, which allows for free use and sharing of the material in various forms. The terms include requirements for attribution, distribution, and modification. The author provides guidance on how to credit the source properly and share their own contributions. A Waltz with History ----- In 1982, Jay Ungar composed "Ashokan Farewell," a waltz that became synonymous with the annual Ashokan Fiddle & Dance Camps. The song's melody was inspired by Scottish laments and reflects a sense of loss and longing after the camp concluded. Over time, it gained popularity through various recordings and television appearances, including its use as the theme for Ken Burns' documentary series "The Civil War." The song's history is deeply intertwined with the Ashokan Reservoir in Upstate New York. The reservoir was named after a former village, and Ungar drew inspiration from this place. Despite being composed relatively late, the waltz has become an integral part of American musical heritage. A Legacy of Music ----- "Ashokan Farewell" continues to be celebrated for its beauty and emotional resonance. Its inclusion in "The Civil War" brought it to a wider audience, and its unique melody has been recognized as a modern composition within the film's soundtrack. The song serves as a reminder of the power of music to evoke emotions and create lasting connections. Share Your Music ----- As you enjoy this waltz, remember that music is meant to be shared. You can adapt and modify "Ashokan Farewell" for your own purposes, ensuring that any new creations are distributed under the same license as the original. The song "Ashokan Farewell" was released as a single by Elektra Nonesuch and received airtime on some country music-formatted radio stations, which was timely as the United States entered Operation Desert Storm. The track was backed with the "Sullivan Ballou Letter" recording featuring narrator David McCullough and actor Paul Roelking reading the part of Ballou. The song "Ashokan Farewell" is a traditional American folk tune that has captured the hearts of many. Written by Jay Ungar, it was originally composed for the 1985 film "The Brother's Solomon", but its popularity soared when it was featured in the 1990 film "City Slickers". The song's haunting melody and poignant lyrics have made it a staple in American music.

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===== The significance of Ashokan Farewell in American history has been deeply rooted in several notable events and projects. Recently, it gained prominence when Bingham appeared on Yellowstone as Walker, an ex-con who worked on the Dutton ranch. Simultaneously, Ashokan Farewell was featured in The Civil War documentary series. In 1984, filmmaker Ken Burns discovered the song and was profoundly affected by its emotional resonance. He utilized it in two of his documentaries: Huey Long and The Civil War. Interestingly, Ashokan Farewell was composed by Jay Ungar in 1982. Initially, it was written as a Scottish lament to celebrate Ashokan Lake and nearby town in upstate New York. It is characterized as an American folk melody with strong influences from the style of a waltz. Notably, this piece has been performed by several musicians over time, including Jay Ungar, Mason, and their family band.

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