

The Lost Mine of the Chisos

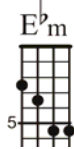
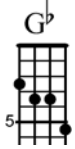
words and music copyright Bill Staines (as recorded on Just Play One Tune More)
mandolin chord arrangement by John Tauxe 31 Dec 2023 • updated 31 Mar 2024 • mando.tauxe.net

The original key is B flat minor.

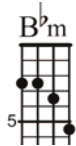
A



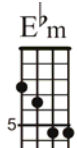
There is a tale from the Big Bend country,



And I heard it once, so long ago

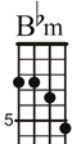


By firelight on the Rio Grande,

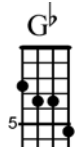


While the moon shown bright on Mexico.

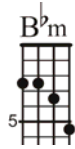
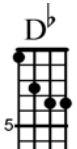
B



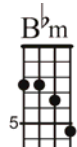
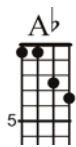
An aged one—an old *compadre*—



Told this to me as I to you.



The desert sun had burned his body,



But his eyes told me that the tale was true.

A

Years ago, up in the Chisos,
Conquistadores, they mined for gold,
And far below they built a prison.
It was a bold presidio.

B

Early each and every morning
The Spaniards led unto the hills
Blindfolded slaves—a captive people—
To work the mines and do their will.

YODEL REFRAIN

Bbm Gb Ebm Bbm Ab Bbm

A

The years they fade like dying echoes.
The way is lost. The trail is gone.
All that remains is just the legend.
The story ends; a passing song.

But if you stand at San Vincente
And watch the sun on Easter morn,
Where its first light falls on the mountains
The way is shown, and the secret torn.

Listen well: If on the West wind
The sounds of horses, they fill the air,
Don't venture on; they guard the treasure
From anyone who enters there.

YODEL REFRAIN

B

There is a tale from the Big Bend country,
And I heard it once, so long ago
By firelight on the Rio Grande,
While the moon shown bright on Mexico.

YODEL REFRAIN