Don’t you think so, reader, rather,  
Saying lather, bather, father?  
Finally, which rhymes with enough,  
Though, through, bough, cough, hough, sough, tough??  
Hiccough has the sound of sup...  
My advice is: GIVE IT UP!  

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Daniel W. Galef  
McGill University  
Montreal, QC  
danielgalef@gmail.com

Three Doublets

One of the best in the tradition of Gardner and Lehrer, those who mixed mathematics with language and had endless fun with both, Lewis Carroll invented a now-common type of puzzle known as a word-ladder, but which he dubbed “doublets.” Altering one letter at a time, change one word into another:

Farewell country and bluegrass,  
Your banjoes that go ‘strum’:  
Just listen to that swelling brass,  
The woodwinds’ fluid hum.  
Come on maestro, raise the heat!  
Tap your dress shoes in your seat!  
Toot the sousaphone and BEAT  
the DRUM. (5 links)

To catch a snare before all’s lost,  
Rehearsal’s where it’s at.  
For playing out-of-tune on stage?  
No one would care for that!  
Worry like a dog a bone,  
Wear out your every gramophone  
If it will help avoid a TONE  
that’s FLAT. (10 links)

A true musician fins it hard  
To languish low, forlorn,  
While chappies file into the aisle  
With peanuts and popcorn.  
The date’s arrived: it’s Concert Day!  
I wonder what critics will say?  
It’s time blow the flute and PLAY  
the HORN. (17 links)