

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 finds 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)