

## Going to the Wedding to Get a Piece of Cake

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G Major (one sharp). It consists of five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). Above the staff, a box labeled 'A' is positioned. The first staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a 'G' chord symbol above the first measure and a 'D7' chord symbol above the last measure. The second staff continues the melody, with 'G' and 'D7' chord symbols, and a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above the final measure. The third staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above the first measure, followed by a box labeled 'B'. The melody continues with 'G' and 'D7' chord symbols. The fourth staff continues the melody, with 'C' (chord), 'G', and 'D7' chord symbols, and a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above the final measure. The fifth staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above the first measure, followed by a 'G' chord symbol, and ends with a double bar line.

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"Going to the Wedding to Get a Piece of Cake" is an American reel in G Major.

The tune comes from the Newton County Hillbillies, a Mississippi String Band active in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Based in Newton County - in the east central part of the state between Jackson and Meridian - the group recorded six sides for Okeh Records in Jackson in December of 1930. Their version of "Going to the Wedding to Get a Piece of Cake" is the only source for the tune.

The Newton County Hillbillies consisted of Alvis Massengale on fiddle, Andrew Harrison on guitar and Marcus Harrison on mandolin. They were a relatively obscure local group that disbanded not long after making their records. In the early 1970s, Gus Meade and a few other folk music researchers tracked Alvis Massengale down, still living in Newton County and convinced him to take up the fiddle again. Like "Going to the Wedding", many of the tunes he played are quite rare or unique and are evidently local to his particular corner of Mississippi. In separate sessions, Gus Meade and Howard Marshall recorded about 30 of his tunes and Alvis played at the 1974 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which featured Mississippi musicians. He died in 1993 at the age of 96. Alvis' solo version of the tune can be found on the Field Recorders Collective's CD of those 1970s recordings.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021). The Newton County Hillbillies' original 1930 recording of the tune is available on County Records **Mississippi String Bands, Volume 2** (1998).