

The Joys of Quebec

The musical score for "The Joys of Quebec" is written in A Major (two sharps: F# and C#) and 4/4 time. It is divided into two main sections, A and B, each with first and second endings.

Section A:

- Staff 1: Key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a repeat sign and a box labeled 'A' above the first measure. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes.
- Staff 2: Continues the melody. A key signature change to one sharp (F#) occurs at the start of the second measure.
- Staff 3: Continues the melody. It features a first ending (marked '1' above the staff) and a second ending (marked '2' above the staff). The first ending leads back to the beginning of Section A, and the second ending leads to the start of Section B.

Section B:

- Staff 4: Key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a repeat sign and a box labeled 'B' above the first measure. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes.
- Staff 5: Continues the melody. A key signature change to one sharp (F#) occurs at the start of the second measure.
- Staff 6: Continues the melody. It features a first ending (marked '1' above the staff) and a second ending (marked '2' above the staff). The first ending leads back to the beginning of Section B, and the second ending leads to the end of the piece.

"The Joys of Québec" (in French "*Les Joies de Québec*") is a French-Canadian reel or polka in A Major. The parts are played AA'BB' (Brody) or AA'BB'C (Phillips).

The reel is the composition of influential Saint-Sauveur, Québec, fiddler and traveling salesman Fortunat Malouin (1870-1935), who recorded in the 1920's for the Starr and Columbia labels. A third section, which Jos Bouchard (1905-1979) included in his 1938 recording, is rarely played. Malouin recorded the reel in New York City in 1928 for Columbia Records (backed with another of his compositions, "*Reel de Rimouski*").

The melody was included in Montreal musician, publisher, and music dealer A.J. Boucher's (1869-1927) *Le Répertoire du Violonneux* (1933), a collection of Quebecois tunes that included versions of all eight tunes that Malouin recorded - all under different titles. "*Les Joyeuses Québécoises*" appears as "*Variations sur un air canadien*".

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Miller & Perron's **Fiddlecase Book of 101 Polkas** (1978) and Phillips's **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994).

It was recorded by Joe Cormier (Cape Breton/Mass.) on **Masters of the Folk Violin** (1989), Joseph Allard (1938) (78 RPM), Fortunat Malouin (1928) (78 RPM), Yankee Ingenuity on **Kitchen Junket** (1977) and Jerry Rivers on **30 Fiddler's Greatest Hits**.