

Tennessee Waltz

Redd Stewart / Pee Wee King

The musical score is written in 3/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of five lines of music. The first line contains measures 1 through 5, with chords C, C7, and F indicated above. The second line contains measures 6 through 12, with a first ending bracket over measures 10 and 11, and chords G7, C, and C indicated. The third line contains measures 13 through 18, with chords E7, F, C, Am, and G7 indicated. The fourth line contains measures 19 through 24, with chords C, C7, F, and C indicated. The fifth line contains measures 25 through 26, with chords G7 and C indicated. The piece ends with a double bar line at the end of measure 26.

I was waltzin' with my darlin' to the Tennessee Waltz,
When an old friend I happened to see.
I introduced him to my darlin' and while they were dancin',
My friend stole my sweetheart from me.
I remember the night and the Tennessee Waltz,
Now I know just how much I have lost.
Yes, I lost my little darlin' the night they were playin'
That beautiful Tennessee Waltz.

Now I wonder how a dance like the Tennessee Waltz,
Could have broken my heart so complete.
Well I couldn't blame my darlin' and who could keep from fallin',
In love with my darlin' so sweet.
Well it must be the fault of the Tennessee Waltz.
Wished I'd known just how much it would cost.
But I didn't see it comin', it's all over but the cryin',
Blame it all on that Tennessee Waltz.

"Tennessee Waltz" is a popular country music song with lyrics by Redd Stewart and music by Pee Wee King written in 1946 and first released in January 1948. The song became a multimillion seller via a 1950 recording by Patti Page.

Pee Wee King, Redd Stewart, and the rest of the Golden West Cowboys were on their way to Nashville "close to Christmas in 1946" when King and Stewart, who were riding in a truck carrying the group's equipment, heard Bill Monroe's new "Kentucky Waltz" on the radio. Stewart had an idea to write a song, a Tennessee waltz using the melody of King's theme song, "No Name Waltz," and wrote the lyrics on a matchbox as he and King thought up the words. King and Stewart presented "Tennessee Waltz" to music publisher Fred Rose the next day and Rose adjusted one line of Stewart's lyric: "O the Tennessee Waltz, O the Tennessee Waltz," to "I remember the night and the Tennessee Waltz."

A considerable amount of time passed before Pee Wee King's Golden West Cowboys were able to record "Tennessee Waltz." Their recording was made in a December 2, 1947 during a session at the RCA Victor Studio in Chicago.

The song is widely known and it's hard to think of anyone in the country music field who hasn't recorded it.