

Altamont

The musical score for "Altamont" is presented in five staves of standard notation. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. It features a boxed letter 'A' above the first measure and a 'C' chord symbol above the second measure. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff continues the melody, with a 'G' chord symbol above the fifth measure and a first ending bracket labeled '1. C' above the final two measures. The third staff starts with a boxed letter 'B' above the first measure and a 'C' chord symbol above the second measure. It includes a second ending bracket labeled '2. C' above the first two measures. The fourth staff continues the melody with 'C' and 'G' chord symbols. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a first ending bracket labeled '1. C' and a second ending bracket labeled '2. C'.

"Altamont" is an American reel in cut time and C Major. The parts are played AABB. Altamont is a town on the Cumberland Plateau (Ky./Tenn. border area). The tune was in repertoire of the African-American string band the John Lusk Band. It was their version of that tune that was issued on the Rounder CD "Altamont" and was from taken from a 1949 recording session that Stu and Gloria Jamieson (and others) had with Lusk, Gribble, and York, according to Kerry Blech. They also recorded the tune in a 1946 session that was recorded onto instantaneous aluminum disks. The 1949 session was recorded on a wire recorder (the version is noticeably different than their 1946 recording).

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. His comments:

Mostly from Bruce Molsky and Bob Carlin. Mind The B and B-Alt parts. They can be inserted for each other in many ways. Consult your fiddler!

The B part in the standard notation corresponds to the Alternate B part in the banjo tablature. It was printed in Clare Milliner & Walt Koken's **Milliner & Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Silberberg's **The Complete Fiddle Tunes I Either Did or Didn't Learn at the Tractor Tavern** (2007) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Bruce Molsky and Bob Carlin on **Take Me as I Am** (2004), Gribble, Lusk & York on **Altamont on Black String Band Music from the Library of Congress** (1989) and Hart and Blech on **Portland Old Time Music Gathering** (2005).