

Bill Cheatham

Part A

Part B

"Bill Cheatham" is an old-time breakdown in A Major. The parts are played AABB or AA'BB' (Kaufman).

Krassen and others note this is a common fiddle tune throughout the Southern part of the United States, where it probably originated (Christeson says he did not hear the tune in Missouri until the mid-1940's).

The tune was a fiddle contest "category" tune in 1899 in Gallatin, Tenn.: each fiddler would play a version, with the best rendition being awarded a prize (C. Wolfe, **The Devil's Box, Vol. 14, No. 4**, 12/1/80).

The earliest sound recording of the tune is by Texas fiddler Eck Robertson, in 1922, played as part of his "Brilliancy Medley".

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), R.P. Christeson's **Old Time Fiddler's Repertory, vol. 1** (1973), Kaufman's **Beginning Old Time Fiddle** (1977), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Lowinger's **Bluegrass Fiddle** (1974), Phillips' **Fiddle Case Tunebook: Old Time Southern** (1989), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Reiner's **Anthology of Fiddle Styles** (1977) and Thede's **The Fiddle Book** (1967) (appears as "Bill Cheatem").

It was recorded by Sandy Bradley on **Potluck & Dance Tonite!** (1979), Blind Joe Mangrum on **Nashville: the Early String Bands, Vol. 2** (originally recorded in 1928), Kenny Baker on **Portrait of a Bluegrass Fiddler** (1968), Fennigs All Star String Band on **The Hammered Dulcimer Strikes Again** (1977), John Burke on **Fancy Pickin' and Plain Singing** (1977), Kyle Creed on **Blue Ridge Style Square Dance Time** (1972), Vassar Clements on **Crossing the Catskills** (1973), Jerry Douglas on **Fluxology** (1979) and Graham Townsend on **Le Violon/The Fiddle** (1976).