

Billy in the Lowland (3)

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The music consists of a series of eighth-note patterns. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and a 'C' chord. The second staff continues the pattern with 'C' and 'Am' chords, and includes a first ending bracket labeled '1' with 'C' and 'F' chords. The third staff starts with a boxed 'B' and a 'C' chord, followed by 'Am'. The fourth staff continues with 'C', 'Am', 'F', and 'Am' chords. The fifth and final staff begins with 'G' and 'C' chords.

"Billy in the Lowland", also known as "The Beaus of Albany", "Billy in the Lowground", "Braes of Auchtertyre", "Fiddler's Drunk and the Fun's All Over", "Jinny in the Lowlands", "Kerry Fulton's Schottische" and "The Kerryman's Daughter" is an American reel in C Major (most versions), D Major (Bayard) or G major. (A version in A Major was recorded by Jason & Pharis Romero and Friends and I have included it as "Billy in the Lowland (4)".) "Billy in the Lowland (1)" is a G major version transposed from C major. "Billy in the Lowland (3)" is a G major version from the playing of Henry Reed. The version given here is based on the playing of Clark Kessinger and Bruce Molsky. It is typical of the C major versions. The parts are played AB (Beissenger & McCann) or AABB (most versions).

"Billy in the Lowland " is one of the most long lasting and widespread of American traditional dance tunes in the key of C, known throughout the South, Midwest and West and even into the northern part of the United States. As with most such long-lived and widely disseminated reels, there is a tremendous variation of the core melody due to both regional style, musical style (e.g., bluegrass, western swing) and individual fiddler's idiosyncratic renderings.

The melody is widely disseminated through the United States, with the exception of the Northeast and north Mid-West. Bayard (1944) writes that when he collected the melody it was current as a marching tune in Greene County, Pennsylvania and was known in its 'Billy' form of the title farther south (the tune resembles another Pennsylvania tune called "Jinny in the Lowlands").

It was a popular fiddle tune among Kentucky musicians. It was recorded in 1937 for the Library of Congress by the Lomax's from the playing of Luther Strong in Hazard, Kentucky.

It was printed in Adam's **Old Time Fiddlers' Favorite Barn Dance Tunes** (1928), Bayard's **Hill Country Tunes** (1944) (appears as "Reel") and **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981), Beisswenger & McCann's **Ozarks Fiddle Music** (2008), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), R.P. Christeson's **Old Time Fiddler's Repertory, vol. 1** (1973), Stephen F. Davis in **Devil's Box, vol. 22, No. 1, Spring 1988, Fiddler Magazine, vol. 3, No. 2, Summer 1996**, Ford's **Traditional Music in America** (1940) (as "Billy in the Low Land"), Kaufman's **Beginning Old Time Fiddle** (1977), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Lowinger's **Bluegrass Fiddle** (1974), Messer's **Anthology of Favorite Fiddle Tunes** (1980), Phillips' **Fiddle Case Tunebook: Old Time Southern** (1989) and **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Ruth's **Pioneer Western Folk Tunes** (1948), Silberberg's **Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern** (2002), Songer's **Portland Collection vol. 3** (2015), Thede's **The Fiddle Book** (1967), Titon's **Old Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001) and Welling's **Welling's Hartford Tunebook** (1976).

It was recorded by John Salyer on **John Salyer: Home Recordings 1941-42** (1993), Walter McNew on **Black Jack Grove** (1993), Dr. Humphrey Bate and His Possum Hunters (1928) (78 RPM), Burnett and Rutherford (1928) (78 RPM), Eck Robertson on **Eck Robertson: Famous Cowboy Fiddler and Master Fiddler**, Lowe Stokes on **Old Time Fiddle Classics and Lowe Stokes, Vol. 1: 1927-1930** (1999 reissue), The Fiddlin' Bootleggers on **A Day in the Mountains** (orig. rec. in 1928), Benny Thomasson on **Texas Hoedown**, Clark Kessinger on **The Legend of Clark Kessinger and Live at Union Grove** (1968), W. L. Gregory on **Monticello: Tough Mountain Music from Southern Kentucky** (1974), Cuje Bertram on **Black Fiddlers** (1999), Jilson Setters, recorded for Alan Lomax and the Library of Congress in June, 1937, Dr. Humphrey Bates and his Possum Hunters on **It'll Never Happen Again: Old Time String Bands Vol. 1.**, Casey Jones (1910-1967) on **Rocky Road to Jordon**, Cyrill Stinnett on **Plain Old Time Fiddling**, John Carson (78 RPM), Mark O'Connor on **A Texas Jam Session and National Junior Fiddle Champion**, , Jim Taylor on **The Civil War Collection** (1996), J. P. Fraley on **Mayville: Old Time Fiddler Tunes from Northeast Kentucky** (1995), Dick Burnett and Leonard Rutherford on **Ramblin' Reckless Hobo: The Songs of Dick Burnett and Leonard Rutherford** (originally recorded 1927), Mike Seeger on **Fresh Oldtime String Band Music** (1988. Appears as part of "Billy in Waynesboro"), Doc Watson on **On Stage** and Benny and Jerry Thomasson on **The Weiser Reunion: A Texas Jam Session** (1993).