

Black Cat in a Briarpatch

The musical score for "Black Cat in a Briarpatch" is presented in five staves. The first staff, labeled 'A', shows the first strain of the tune in G Major, 2/4 time. The second staff contains the first ending of the first strain, marked '1.'. The third staff, labeled 'B', shows the second strain of the tune. The fourth staff contains the second ending of the first strain, marked '2.'. The fifth staff contains the final ending of the first strain. Chord symbols G, C, D, and G are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic structure. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Black Cat in a Briarpatch" is an American reel in cut time and G Major ('A' part) & C Major ('B' part). The parts are played AAB (Krassen), AA'BB (Phillips) or AA'BB' (Lamancusa).

An old-time quadrille (i.e., a tune with each strain in a different key) from the repertoire of Copen, Braxton County, West Virginia, fiddler Melvin Wine (1909-2003).

Phillips and Lamancusa reverse the two parts of the tune from Krassen.

The melody is 'crooked', or irregular, as it has an extra beat at the end of the 'A' part.

The source for the notated version was Melvin Wine (b. 1909), learned from his father Bob Wine (Braxton County, W.Va.). Wine tended to play 'c' notes that occur just prior to a 'd' note in the first strain (usually found at the end of a measure) intonated between natural and sharp.

It was printed in Krassen's **Masters of Old Time Fiddling** (1983), Clare Milliner & Walt Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Erynn Marshall on **Calico** (2005) and Melvin Wine on **Cold Frosty Morning** (1976).