

Chicken Reel

D A A7 D

4 A7 D A7 D A7 D

8 A7 D A7 D B

12 A7 D A7 D

16 1. A7 D A7 2. A7 D

"Chicken Reel" is a dance tune. It was composed and published in 1910 by Joseph M. Daly (1883–1968), with copyright registered on October 7. Joseph Mittenenthal added lyrics three months later, and the texted version was copyrighted on January 12, 1911.

Along with "Turkey in the Straw," "Chicken Reel" is probably one of the best-known poultry-related folk tunes. It is frequently found in early animated cartoons as a catchy tune used to represent farmyard activity or a gathering of fowl. Originally composed as a novelty song, it has since passed into modern folk tradition. Today, the tune is usually played without the words, which would often have been sung in the minstrel style (in stereotyped faux African-American vernacular).

"Chicken Reel" was made popular again years later by Les Paul who recorded the song as a catchy instrumental, whimsically mimicking chicken sounds on his guitar. "Chicken Reel" was arranged for symphony orchestra by Leroy Anderson; his arrangement was recorded by the Boston Pops Orchestra in 1992.

Fiddlers seem to like chicken tunes. It's easy to make chicken sounds with a scrape of the bow. Most serious fiddlers consider this cheap theatrics. This tune has no sound effects; it's just a straight-up pretty easy tune.

Other poultry tunes in this collection are:

- Cluck Old Hen
- Cacklin' Hen
- Turkey in the Straw.