

Clinch Mountain Backstep

Ralph Stanley

The musical score for "Clinch Mountain Backstep" is presented in five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above the first measure. The second staff is marked with the number '4' at the start. The third staff features two first ending brackets labeled '1.' and '2.' above the staff, with a boxed letter 'B' above the second ending. The fourth staff is marked with the number '12' and includes a time signature change from 4/4 to 6/4. The fifth staff is marked with the number '15' and includes a time signature change from 6/4 back to 4/4. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

"Clinch Mountain Backstep" is an old-time breakdown in A minor.

It was composed and recorded by banjo player Ralph Stanley in clawhammer style in the 1930's.

The 'backstep' of the title refers to the measure of 2/4 added to a 4/4 bar in the second strain.

Clinch Mountain is actually a mountain range of some 150 miles, straddling Tennessee and Virginia in the Appalachians.

It was recorded by Sandy Bradley, The Stanley Brothers, The Clinch Mountain Boys, Bob Carlin on **Fiddle Tunes for Clawhammer Banjo** (1980) (his source was Tracy Schwartz who calls it "Liza Jane").

I learned it from Bob Carlin's CD.