

Crook Brothers Tune

The musical score for "Crook Brothers Tune" is presented in two systems. The first system, labeled 'A', contains two staves of music. The first staff begins with a D chord and concludes with a G chord. The second staff begins with a D chord and concludes with a D chord. The second system, labeled 'B', also contains two staves. The first staff begins with a Bm chord and concludes with a G chord. The second staff begins with a Bm chord and concludes with a D chord. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Crook Brothers Tune", also known as "Crook Brothers Breakdown", is an American breakdown in D Major. The parts are played AABB.

In the early years the producers of WSM's Grand Old Opry felt that the show wouldn't be complete without a "brother" act and the Crook Brothers were one of them. In 1934, the band consisted of Louis and Herman Crook, Bill Etter, who played the piano and Clarence Minton on guitar.

The Crooks Brothers Barn Dance Orchestra was one of the long-lasting mainstays of the Opry, often appearing with the square dancers on the Opry through the decades.

One thing that made the Crook Brothers unique was that they were led by Herman's harmonica as lead instrument, not the fiddle. The Crook Brothers were originally Herman and his brother Matthew playing twin harmonicas. Sometime around 1929, Matthew quit to become a policeman, leaving Herman as the groups star. From that time on the group featured twin harmonica and fiddle as the lead instruments, still pretty unique. Also, Herman added another member to the group on banjo, Lewis Crook. As unusual as Crook was for a last name, Herman and Lewis were not related. Herman and Lewis were both in the band till Herman passed away in 1988.

In the early days of the Opry, the Crook Brothers occasionally featured a vocal tune. Lewis Crook was the first person to sing "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" on the Opry. (The Carter Family recorded it as "Can the Circle Be Unbroken").

The Crook Brothers called this tune "Sally Ann".

It was printed in

Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by The Hill Billies (1925), Trevor and Travis Stuart on **Pretty Little Widow** (!997), Jerry Hagins and Tim Kerr on **Self Taught** (2022) and Grayson Highlands Band for UNC University Libraries (1999).