

Fine Times at Our House

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/4. It is divided into two parts, A and B. Part A begins at measure 1 and ends at measure 10. Part B begins at measure 11 and ends at measure 15. The score includes a 3-measure triplet in the first measure of both parts. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

"Fine Times at Our House", also known as "Fine Fun at Our House" (Pa.) and "Kitty's Got a Baby-O" is an old-time breakdown known in central W.Va., Virginia, Indiana and southwestern Pa. It is sometimes set in D Major/Mixolydian or A Mixolydian. The tune is crooked, having two extra beats in the last measure of the A part. Bayard (1981) points out that the tune "shades" between major and mixolydian in many versions, which is "a genuine and once common feature of our fiddling tradition".

Sources include: Burl Hammons (Marlinton, Pochahontas County, W.Va.), who says he learned it from his Uncle Neal (rather than Edden Hammons, who played a similar, but somewhat different version), John Summers (Marion, Indiana), Irvin Yaughner Jr. (Mt. Independence, Pennsylvania, learned from his great-uncle), James Smalley (Westmoreland County, Pa.), Walter Ireland (Greene County, Pa.), Edden Hammons, via Jody Stecher [Fiddler Magazine, 2008] and Henry Yeager (Centre County, Pa.).

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Bayard's **Hill Country Tunes** (1944), Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981), **Fiddler Magazine**, Fall 2008, Krassen's **Masters of Old Time Fiddling** (1983), Milliner & Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and **Southern Folklore Quarterly** (1942).

The version here is from a transcription of Edden Hammons who played it with almost constant double stop drones.