

Gallinipper

The musical score for "Gallinipper" is presented in three staves. The first staff, labeled 'A', contains four measures of music. The second staff, labeled 'B', contains eight measures. The third staff, labeled 'A', contains four measures. The key signature is A Major (two sharps) and the time signature is 2/4. Chord symbols (A, D, E7) are indicated above the notes. The music is written in treble clef and features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, with some slurs and ties.

"Gallinipper" is an old-time American reel in A Major. The parts are played AABB. The parts are not symmetrical, there are four measures in part A and eight measures in part B. Most fiddlers learned this from the recordings of Kentucky fiddler J.P. Fraley who learned it from his father. This tune is known by eastern Kentucky and West Virginia fiddlers. A gallinipper (or galley napper) is a crane fly, or, historically, a large American mosquito (*Psorophora ciliata*). The gallinipper is also a legendary creature in the African-American folk tradition. These creatures were said to be a species of giant mosquitoes so big that their bones could fence a 140-acre field. Gallinipper tales were appropriated as a feature of minstrel shows, but have also appeared in American blues songs such as "Mosquito Moan" by Blind Lemon Jefferson (1929). It was printed in Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021). It was recorded by J.P. & Annadeene Fraley on **Galleynipper** (1990) and **Maysville** (1995).