

Goodbye Liza Jane

"Goodbye Liza Jane", also known as "Liza Jane" or "Going Down to Cairo" is an American reel and cut time in A Major (most versions), G Major (Kuntz) or D Major (Silberberg). The parts are played AB (Silberberg) or AABB (most versions).

Two influential recordings were made of the tune in the 1920's which helped spread its popularity among early country musicians. The first was by the east Tennessee string band The Hill Billies, who released it under the title "Mountaineers Love Song" and the second was by another band from the same area, the Tenneva Ramblers, as "Miss Liza Poor Gal". Bob Wills of Texas, the father of western swing, said this was the first tune he learned (as "Goodbye, Miss Liza Jane") to fiddle.

A version of the tune and song, under the title "Rejected by Eliza Jane" was collected by the African-American collector Thomas Talley and printed in his book **Negro Folk Rhymes** (1922, reprinted 1991 edited by Charles Wolfe).

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Stephen F. Davis' **Devil's Box**, vol. 13, no. 3, Sept. 1979, Kuntz's **Ragged but Right** (1986), Phillips' **Fiddle Case Tunebook: Old Time Southern** (1989) and **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Silberberg's **Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded by Bobby Hicks on **Texas Crapshooter** (1978), Reno and Smiley on **Banjo Special** (1962), Kyle Creed on **Blue Ridge Style Square Dance Time** (1972), Delaware Water Gap on **From the Rivers of Babylon to the Land of Jazz** (1979) (Appears as "Liza Jane"), Judy Henske on **High Flying Bird** (1963), Pete Seeger, Mike Seeger and Larry Eisenberg on **American Playparties** (1959), Bob Wills and Mel Tillis on **Mel Tillis and Bob Wills in Person**, The Tenneva Ramblers (78 RPM) (1927) (as "Miss Liza, Poor Gal"), The Hill Billies (78 RPM) (1926, as "Mountaineers Love Song") and many others.