

Green Mountain Petronella

The musical score for "Green Mountain Petronella" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is marked with a boxed 'A' and contains a first ending. The second staff continues the first ending. The third staff is marked with a boxed 'B' and contains a second ending. The fourth and fifth staves provide further musical notation, including first and second endings. Chord symbols G, D7, C, and DM7 are placed above the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Green Mountain Petronella" is an American reel, polka or country dance. known in New England in G Major (Brody, Miller & Perron/1983, Phillips, Spadaro, Sweet) or F Major (Miller & Perron/1978). The parts are played AAB (Miller & Perron/1978) or AABB (Brody, Miller & Perron/1983, Phillips, Spadaro, Sweet).

Canterbury, New Hampshire caller and musician Dudley Laufman has been credited with finding and disseminating this tune. Nick Barber inexplicably identifies the tune as from Newfoundland, however the title refers to the Green Mountains of Vermont.

The title came about due to 20th century New England adaptations of the Scottish country dance "Petronella", as first described by New England musician and dance prompter Ralph Page in **Northern Junket**, Vol. 10 No. 2 (1970). At some point it became customary for the 'inactives' during the dance to join in a figure, where previously they had stood by. Caller Dudley Laufman tongue-in-cheek referred to that variation of the dance as "Citronella", although there were other minor figure variations as well (some of which 'stuck' while others dropped out of fashion among dancers). Page wrote that the tune named "Petronella" was disliked by many of the fiddlers he knew, as was "despised" by the dancers. Substitutions for it for the dance were "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and "Finnegan's Wake", among others, but the "Green Mountain Petronella" was Page's favored substitution. He said:

"The nearer you got to Vermont the surer you were to dancing "Pat'nella" to this tune".

It was printed in Barber's **Nick Barber's English Choice** (2002), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Miller & Perron's **101 Polkas** (1978) and **New England Fiddler's Repertoire** (1983), Ralph Page's **Northern Junket**, vol. 10, No. 2 (1970), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980) and Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964/1981).

It was recorded by Nick & Mary Barber with Huw Jones on **Lovely Nancy** (2002), Rodney and Randy Miller on **Castles in the Air** and on **New England Chestnuts, vol. II** (1981).