

The Grey Eagle

The musical score for "The Grey Eagle" is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note D, a quarter note E, and a quarter note F#. Above the staff, the chords D, A, E7, D, and A are indicated. A box labeled 'A' is placed above the second measure. The second staff starts at measure 4 and contains the melody for measures 4, 5, and 6. Above the staff, the chords E7, D, and E7 are indicated. The third staff starts at measure 7 and contains the melody for measures 7, 8, and 9. Above the staff, the chord A is indicated for measure 7. A first ending bracket spans measures 8 and 9, with a double bar line and repeat sign at the end. The second ending bracket spans measures 8 and 9, with a double bar line and repeat sign at the end. The fourth staff starts at measure 10 and contains the melody for measures 10, 11, and 12. Above the staff, the chords A and D are indicated. A box labeled 'B' is placed above the first measure. The fifth staff starts at measure 13 and contains the melody for measures 13, 14, and 15. Above the staff, the chords E7, D, A, and D are indicated. The sixth staff starts at measure 16 and contains the melody for measures 16, 17, and 18. Above the staff, the chords A and D are indicated for measures 16 and 17. A first ending bracket spans measures 17 and 18, with a double bar line and repeat sign at the end. The second ending bracket spans measures 17 and 18, with a double bar line and repeat sign at the end. The score includes various ornaments such as grace notes and triplets.

"The Grey Eagle", also known as "Gray Eagle" or "Grey Eagle Hornpipe" is an old-time breakdown or Hornpipe. It is known in Alabama, Mississippi, southwestern Virginia, southwestern Pennsylvania, western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Indiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Arizona. It is usually played in A Major, a few versions in G Major and rarely in C Major. It is usually played AABB but some versions add a C part. There are a large number of variations in circulation. Perhaps the name gets attached to any tune with a slight similarity to the base tune. I have chosen the one that I liked best to be shown here. The banjo tab is by John Letscher and is a composite of several versions.

It was printed in Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981), Beisswenger & McCann's **Ozarks Fiddle Music** (2008), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Christeson's **Old Time Fiddler's Repertory, vol. 1** (1973), Ford's **Traditional Music of America** (1940), Harding's **All-Round Collection** (1905), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Lair's **100 WLS Barn Dance Favorites** (1935), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) (breakdown version), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995) (hornpipe version), Shumway's **Frontier Fiddler** (1990) and Silberberg's **Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded by Eck Robertson, Bartow Riley, Sonny Miller, Joe Greene, Kenny Baker, The Booker Brothers, Taylor's Kentucky Boys (1927)(Featuring the only black hoedown fiddler to record commercially, Jim Booker), Chicken Chokers, Thomas Hunter, Taylor's Kentucky Boys (1980 - originally recorded in 1927), Mark O'Conner, Byron Berline, The Chicken Chokers, James Bryan, Ed Haley, Uncle Am Stuart, (1924), Benny & Jerry Thomasson, Howard Marshall & John Williams, The Booker Brothers and The Hoover Uprights.