

Jaybird Died of the Whooping Cough

The musical score is written in G Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of two main sections, A and B, each with four staves of music. Section A is marked with a boxed 'A' and Section B with a boxed 'B'. Chords G, C, and D7 are indicated above the notes. The melody is a simple fiddle tune with a repetitive rhythmic pattern.

"Jaybird Died of the Whooping Cough", also known as "Here Comes Jack with a Fiddle on His Back" is an old time reel in G Major. The parts are played AABB. It is known in Tennessee and Virginia.

Charles Wolfe (1991) states that printed versions of this song/tune have been found as far back as 1846 and that it has been fairly widely collected from both black and white sources.

A Kentucky variant is entitled "Here Comes Jack with a Fiddle on His Back". It was printed in Kuntz's **Ragged But Right** (1987), Silberberg's **Complete Fiddle Tunes I Either Did or Did Not Learn at Tractor Tavern** (2005), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021), Titon's **Old Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001) and Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994).

It was recorded by John Ashby and the Free State Ramblers on **Fiddling by the Hearth** (1979), Double Decker String Band on **Giddyap Napoleon** (1980) and The Lazy Aces on **Still Lazy After All These Years** (1986).