

John Lover's Gone

The musical score for "John Lover's Gone" is written in D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The first two staves are labeled **A1** and contain the following chord sequence: D, A7, D, A7, D. The next four staves are labeled **B1** and contain the following chord sequence: A7, G, A7, D, A7, D, G. The fifth and sixth staves are labeled **A2** and contain the following chord sequence: D, A7, D, A7, D. The final four staves are labeled **B2** and contain the following chord sequence: A7, G, A7, D, A7, D. The score concludes with a double bar line.

"John Lover's Gone", also known as "Tommy Love", "Poor Johnny's gone to War", "Poor Johnny's Gone to the War", "John the Lover", "Johnny Has Gone to War", "Johnny Lover" and "John's Lover is Gone" is an old-time breakdown in D Major. The parts are played AABB (Phillips), ABC (Silberberg) or ABBC (Milliner & Koken).

It is a popular dance tune in Virginia's Blue Ridge, known especially as a banjo song which employs a special tuning on the instrument. It is in the repertoire of Taylor Kimble (1892-1979), Patrick County, Va., and J.P. Nestor.

The Roanoke Jug Band recorded the tune in Richmond in 1929. The group was primarily made up by employees of the American Viscose Company plant in Vinton, Virginia and played throughout the south-central part of the state. Despite their name, none of the members used a jug in performance.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. I have adapted his arrangement for the standard notation version.

It was printed sources in Milliner & Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002) (appears as "Johnny's Lover's Gone").

It was recorded by Babe Spangler on **The Old Virginia Fiddlers: Rare Recordings**, Roanoke Jug Band on **Old Time String Band Classics, 1927-1933** (1975), Leftwich & Higginbotham on **No One to Bring Home Tonight** (1984), The Kimble and Wagoner Families on **The Kimble and Wagoner Families** (2006), Roanoke Jug Band (78 RPM) (1929), Gerry Milnes & Lorriane Lee Hammond on **Hell Up Coal Holler** (1999) and Wade Ward on **Uncle Wade** (1973).