

The Joke on the Puppy

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and contains a triplet of eighth notes followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chords G, D, and D7 are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, D, and a first ending bracketed over the final two measures. The third staff starts with a boxed 'B' and features a second ending bracket over the first two measures, followed by chords G, C, and G. The fourth staff continues with chords D, G, C, G, and D. The fifth staff concludes with two endings, both starting with a G chord, and ends with a double bar line.

"The Joke on the Puppy", also known as "Rye Straw" or "The Unfortunate Pup" is an old-time breakdown, in A Major. It is usually played in A Dae fiddle tuning. The parts are played AA'BB'. Some players call this tune "Rye Straw" but it is in a different key and is melodically different from the version of "Rye Straw" in this section. Structurally, various versions contain anywhere from two to four distinct parts.

The A part is somewhat similar to "Mississippi Sawyer" in this section.

It was printed in Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Clayton McMichen (1929) (78 RPM), Tommy Jarrell on **Sail Away Ladies**

(1976) and **The Joke on the Puppy** (1976), Stephen B. Tucker on **Great Big Yam Potatoes:**

Anglo-American Fiddle Music from Mississippi (1985) and Uncle Am Stuart (recorded in 1924 as "Rye Straw") (78 RPM).