

Kennedy Rag

The musical score for "Kennedy Rag" is presented in two sections, A and B, each consisting of two staves of music. The key signature is one flat (Bb major). Section A begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The first staff of section A starts with a boxed letter 'A' and a chord of F. The second staff of section A has chords of C7, F, C7, and F. Section B begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The first staff of section B starts with a boxed letter 'B' and a chord of F. The second staff of section B has chords of C7, F, Bb, C7, and F. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, along with dynamic markings like 'mf' and 'f'.

"Kennedy Rag" is an old-time country rag in F Major. The parts are played AA'BB.

It was composed by fiddler Charlie Stripling (1896-1966), who named it for Kennedy, in southeastern Lamar County, where he had relocated, but near his birthplace in Pickens County, west Alabama.

Kennedy had a population 277 at that time of release of the recording in 1929 on the Vocalion label (a subsidiary of Brunswick Records). The town had just completed construction of the Kennedy High School in 1927, although when it burned in 1984 it was not replaced and students now attend Lamar County schools.

"Kennedy Rag", described by Charlie Stripling as a "ragtime breakdown", was one of ten numbers recorded by the brothers in Chicago, Ill., in 1929, based on the success of their initial 1928 Brunswick recording of "The Lost Child".

It was printed in Milliner & Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995) and Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded The Stripling Brothers on **Lost Child** (1971) and on **The Stripling Brothers vol. 1** and on a 78 RPM record (1929) backed with "New Born Blues".