

The Last of Sizemore

The musical score is written in D Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. Section A (measures 1-8) starts with a D chord and a repeat sign. Section B (measures 9-16) starts with a D chord and includes a first ending (measures 11-12) and a second ending (measures 13-14) with a triplet. Section C (measures 15-18) starts with a D chord and includes a first ending (measures 15-16) and a second ending (measures 17-18) with a triplet. The score includes various chords: D, G, A7, and D. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

"The Last of Sizemore" is an old-time breakdown in D Major. It is played in Standard, AEae or ADae fiddle tunings. The parts are played AABBC (Titon) or AA'BB'CC' (Phillips).

Jeff Titon finds that there are a few different tunes that go by this title.

Eastern Kentucky fiddler Hiram Stamper told Titon the title refers to a soldier named Sizemore who, for some unknown reason, was taken up a hollow and shot, during or just after the Civil War. Stamper said he learned the tune (with the same story) from fiddlers Dan Triplett, Shade Sloan and Silas Terry, all Civil War veterans. Santford Kelly had another tale: Sizemore in his version is on his deathbed and plays a last tune which is overheard by another fiddler who is out plowing his garden and who commits it to memory.

This version of the melody was recorded in 1937 for the Library of Congress from Kentucky fiddler Boyd Asher.

It was printed in Milliner & Koken's **Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes** (2011), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Titon's **Old Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Luther Strong on **Traditonal Southern Instrumental Styles** (1978) and Jim Taylor on **The Civil War Collection** (1996).