
"Lost Girl" is an old-time breakdown or reel in G Major (Silberberg, Titon) or C Major (Phillips, Songer). The parts are played AB (Silberberg), AABB (Songer, Titon) or AA'BB (Phillips). The melody is now known as a Magoffin County, Kentucky, melody, associated with the playing of John Salyer and Walter McNew (of neighboring Rockcastle County, Ky.). Jeff Titon (2001) writes that the tune is thought to have come to Kentucky from Virginia (an older Galax, Va., fiddler, Emmett Lundy, for example, played a version), but that it is not a common tune in Kentucky, although different versions exist.

It was played at the Berea, Kentucky, fiddlers contests in 1919 and 1920 by H.F. Green and by Anderson Bowling, according to records of the events reviewed by Titon. Further afield, the title appears in a list of traditional Ozarks Mountain fiddle tunes compiled by musicologist/folklorist Vance Randolph, published in 1954 (although it is not known to what music this title was applied in that region i.e. it may or may not be related to the Kentucky tune).

"Lost Girl" is usually played in G major (Emmett Lundy, John Salyer), although versions in C major are not uncommon (Walter McNew, and Oregon's Foghorn Stringband).

It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002), Songer's **Portland Collection, vol. 2** (2005) and Titon's **Old-Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001).

It was recorded by John Salyer on **John M. Salyer: Home Recordings 1941-42, Vo. 1** (1993), Walter McNew on **Blackjack Grove** (1993), Burl Hammons on **Old-Time Music of Pocahontas County** (1995), Bruce Greene on **Vintage Fiddle Tunes** (1987), Chad Crumm on **Old Time Friends** (1987 Key of D Major), Bill Christopherson on **Old Time Friends** (1987), Foghorn Stringband on **Weiser Sunrise** (2005), Emmett Lundy on **Fiddle Tunes from Grayson County, Virginia** (1977) and Reed Island Rounders on **Wolves in the Wood** (1997).