

## Merriweather

The musical score for "Merriweather" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The third staff has a slur over the first two measures. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The chords are: G, Am, G, C, D7, G, G, Am, D7, G, C, G, C, G, D7, G.

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"Merriweather" is known as a Kentucky tune and most modern versions are modeled after the "Meriwether" of W.L. "Jake" Phelps of Todd County, Kentucky, recorded in the field in 1973 by fiddler Bruce Greene.

No one knows for certain what the title refers to, it is likely it refers to the name of a prominent 19th century Todd County family named Meriwether. The tune is related to the Irish reels "Tom Ward's Downfall" and "The Mourne Mountains".

It is similar to "Waynesboro" and the two play well together in a medley.

It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997) and Titon's **Old-Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes** (2001).

I learned this at our Monday night jams.