

Old Bunch of Keys

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Old Bunch of Keys" in G major (one sharp). The score is written on three systems of a single treble clef staff. The first system begins with a key signature change to G major and contains a first ending bracket labeled 'A' with a double bar line. Chord markings E7, D, E7, A, E7, and A are placed above the notes. The second system contains a second ending bracket labeled 'B' with a double bar line, and chord markings E7 and A are placed above the notes. The third system contains two first ending brackets, each labeled '1.' and '2.', with double bar lines, and chord markings E7 and A are placed above the notes.

"Old Bunch of Keys", also known as "Bunch of Keys" is an old-time breakdown in A Mixolydian. It is played in AEae, ADae, or Standard fiddle tunings. The parts are played AB or AABB (Brody).

It was learned by Mt. Airy, N.C. fiddler Tommy Jarrell "Up on the mountain (near Fancy Gap, Va.) from my daddy-in-law (Charlie Barnett Lowe), an' John Rector, an' Fred Hawkes, an' some of 'em... Well, we'd go on the high part twice, y'know, but we played the low part a long time 'fore we'd go to the high part."

This is not related to the Irish "Bunch of Keys" but "Brushy Fork of John's Creek" is a related melody.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. His comment: Mostly from Bob Carlin on the "Banging and Sawing" CD.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), **Banjo Picker's Fakebook** (1985) and **Guitar Picker's Fakebook** (1984), Kaufman's **Beginning Old Time Fiddle** (1977), Leftwich's **Round Peak Style Clawhammer Banjo** (1999) and Perlman's **Clawhammer Style Banjo** (1983).

It was recorded by Brad Leftwich, Bruce Molsky et al on **Mount Airy USA** (2001), Cockerham, Jarrell and Jenkins on **Down to the Cider Mill** (1968), Tommy Jarrell on **Music of North Carolina** (1978), Pickin' Around the Cookstove on **Pickin' Around the Cookstove** (1975), Bob Carlin on **Banging and Sawing** (1996) and Uncle Earl on **She Waits for Night** (2005).