

Pretty Polly Ann

The musical score for "Pretty Polly Ann" is written in A major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'A' and contains the first 8 measures. The second staff is labeled 'A' and contains the next 8 measures. The third staff is labeled 'B' and contains the next 8 measures. The fourth staff is labeled 'A' and contains the next 8 measures, with a first ending bracket over the final 4 measures. The fifth staff is labeled '2.' and contains the second ending for the final 4 measures. Chords A, E7, and A are indicated above the notes.

"Pretty Polly Ann" also known as "Lonesome Polly Ann", "Sugar Betty Ann" or "Sugar Betsy Ann" is an old-time and Bluegrass breakdown in A Major. It is usually played in AEae or AEac# tunings. The parts are played AABB or AABCCA'A'.

The A part has some similarities with "Cripple Creek" and the B part brings to mind "Turkey in the Straw".

Bob Carlin (1985) notes the tune is possibly a variant of the song "Little Betty Ann" and further notes that, as "Betty Ann", it was recorded in 1947 for Columbia Records by fiddler Jesse Ashlock. The tune was recorded for the Library of Congress by musicologist/folklorist Vance Randolph from the playing of Ozarks Mountain fiddler Bill Bilyeu (pronounced 'Blue', of Day, Missouri) in 1943.

Chilton County, central Alabama fiddler Fonza Smith also played a variant of the tune. The banjo tab is by John Letscher.

It was recorded by Tom Fuller on **Traditional Fiddling from Oklahoma & Texas**, Brad Leftwich on **Rounder Fiddle** (1990) and Bob Carlin on **Bangin' and Sawin'** (1985).