

Richmond Polka

The musical score for "Richmond Polka" is written in D Major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It is divided into two main sections, A and B. Section A (measures 1-12) contains two strains, each with a first and second ending. Section B (measures 13-24) also contains two strains. The piece features several triplet markings (3) and chord changes to D, A7, E7, and A. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps.

"Richmond Polka", also known as "Green Mountain Polka", "Plaza Polka", "Redman's Reel" or "Richmond Cotillion" is an American reel or polka in cut time and D Major ('A' part) & A Major ('B' part). The parts are played ABBAA.

"Richmond Polka" is a version of the reel usually known as "Richmond Cotillion"; the first strains are similar, but the second strains are more distanced. It was recorded in 1929 for Brunswick Records by West Virginia fiddle and guitar duo Clark and Luches Kessinger, known on recordings as The Kessinger Brothers, despite that Luches was Clark's nephew. Brunswick released the Kessingers' "Richmond Polka" recording in Canada as "*Le Reel de Richmond*".

A popular "Richmond Polka" was published in the 1850's and reprinted frequently for several decades, however, it is not the same tune as the Kessingers' "Richmond Polka" or any of the "Richmond Cotillion" variants. Because it was the title of a popular polka, it probably became a "floater" in folk-processing. Paul Gifford notes that Henry Ford's orchestra recorded the tune in a medley with "Jenny Lind Polka" for the dance Heel and Toe Polka. The tune was recorded in the mid-20th century by Curly Herdman and His West Virginia Boys. "Redman's Reel" in Ira Ford's **Traditional Music in America** (1940) is similar to the Kessingers' version. It was printed in Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995).

It was recorded by The Kessinger Brothers (78 RPM)(1929), The Kentucky String Ticklers (78 RPM)(1933), Clark Kessinger on **Clark Kessinger, Fiddler** (1966), Bobby Taylor on **Bobby Taylor Plays 'Ragged Shirt' and Other Favorite Fiddle Tunes from West Virginia** (2009), Vivian and Phil Williams on **Dance Music of the Oregon Trail** (2014) and The Kessinger Brothers on **Done Gone**.