

## Rock the Cradle Lucy

Musical score for "Rock the Cradle Lucy" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff is marked with a boxed 'A' and contains a first ending. The second staff contains a second ending. The third staff is marked with a boxed 'B' and contains a first ending. The fourth and fifth staves continue the melody. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, A7, G, D, A7, D, D, A7, G, A7, D, A7, G, D, A7, D.

### Lyrics from various recordings:

Rock that cradle Lucy, rock that cradle long,  
Rock that cradle Lucy, keep that baby warm.

Rock that cradle Lucy, rock that cradle spry,  
Rock that cradle Lucy, don't let that baby cry.

Rock that cradle Lucy, rock it Lucy Long,  
Rock that cradle Lucy, keep that baby warm.

Oh rock the cradle Lucy, don't you close your eyes,  
Oh rock the cradle Lucy, don't let that baby cry.

Oh Lucy take a baby, she set him in the sun,  
A bumble bee lit on his head, made that nigger run.

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"Rock the Cradle Lucy" is an American Reel in cut time and D Major. The parts are played AA'BB. This version of the song "Rock the Cradle Lucy" was recorded by the Hancock County, mid-Georgia group the Cofer Brothers, consisting of Leon "L.J." Cofer on banjo and guitar and Paul Cofer on fiddle; both also sang. They recorded three sessions for Okeh records in March, 1927 in Atlanta, Georgia and again in 1929 under the name Cofer Brothers and also as The Georgia Crackers.

The vocal melody and words of the Cofers' "Rock the Cradle Lucy" are cognate with other versions, but the instrumental, breakdown, parts are dissimilar to the Skillet Lickers and other string band versions.

Various sets of floating lyrics have been associated with the tune, some of which are shared with the similarly-titles "Rock the Cradle Joe". The song may have derived in part from an older minstrel era song called "Miss Lucy Long" however, both music and words are significantly different and a direct association is elusive. A later minstrel song called "Oh! Rock dat Cradle, Susie" (1883, words by James B. Marsh, music by W.T. Keefer) has words (in the chorus) that are much closer to the string band versions recorded in the 78 RPM era by The Skillet Lickers, the Cofer Brothers, J.E. Mainer's Mountaineers and others.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

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