

## Rocky Road to Jordan

The musical score for "Rocky Road to Jordan" is written in D Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a boxed letter 'A' and contains a melodic line with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and a double bar line. The third staff begins with a boxed letter 'B' and contains a melodic line with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and a double bar line. The fourth staff continues the melody with a double bar line. The fifth staff contains two first ending brackets labeled '1.' and '2.', each with a double bar line. Chord symbols (D, G, A) are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic accompaniment.

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"Rocky Road to Jordan" is an old-time reel in D Major. The parts are played AA'BB'. It is one of '100 essential Missouri tunes' listed by Missouri fiddler Charlie Walden. It was in the repertoire of fiddlers Casey Jones (1910-1987, Missouri), Dwight Lamb (Iowa) and Bob Walters (Nebraska).

It was mentioned by name in Edgar Lee Masters' (1868-1950) 1942 contribution to the **Rivers of America Series, The Sangamon**.

In chapter 6, speaking of the people of Menard County Illinois, he recalled a visit in 1914 to a fiddler named John Armstrong, of Oakford, who played a number of tunes including "Rocky Road to Jordan".

The standard notation version given here is from Bob Walters and is widely known.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Christeson's **Old Time Fiddler's Repertory, vol. 1** (1973) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Casey Jones on **Rocky Road to Jordan** (1992), Dwight Lamb on **Joseph Won a Coated Fiddle** (1999), Bob Walters on **The Champion** (2013), Chirps Smith, Steve Rosen and Paul Tyler.