

Sally Ann Johnson

1. A
D G (D) D Bm

4 Em A7 D G (D) D A7

8 1. D 2. D B D G D

12 G Em A A7 D G D

16 Em (A) 1. A7 D 2. A7 D

"Sally Ann Johnson" is an old-time breakdown, well known in Virginia and West Virginia in D Major. It is usually played AABB although some variants use a modified 4th strain (AABB'). Alan Jabbour collected it from Henry Reed but Reed's version is different from the usual versions and is circular in form. It is different from "Sally Johnson" although that tune is sometimes called "Sally Ann Johnson" and also from "Sally Ann" (a song).

This piece was a favorite competition number for St. Albans, West Virginia fiddler Clark Kessinger (1896-1975) at fiddlers' contests. Kessinger played the tune at the Newport Folk Festival in 1966 and recorded it for LP's in the 1960's but seems not to have recorded it earlier in his career. It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997).

It has been recorded by Clark Kessinger, Henry Reed, A, C, Robertson, Alan Jabbour and Ken Perlman.