

Tom and Jerry

Musical score for "Tom and Jerry" in A major, 2/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 2/4. The music features various chords and ornaments.

Staff 1: Chords: A, E7, A, D. Includes a triplet of eighth notes.

Staff 2: Chords: A, D, A, E7, A.

Staff 3: Chords: D, A, A, D. Includes first and second endings.

Staff 4: Chords: E7, A, A.

Staff 5: Chords: D, E7, A. Includes first and second endings.

"Tom and Jerry" is an old-time, Texas style breakdown in A Major known in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama and Arizona. The parts are played AABB. It is often played in AEae tuning.

The first famous association of the two names together was in the early years of the 19th century in a book called **Life in London** (1820-1821), by Pierce Egan (1772-1849). It features the characters of a young country squire, Jerry Hawthorne who is shown about town by his elegant cousin, Corinthian Tom and Bob Logic, as rakes in Regency England who mis-adventured among upper-class society. Due to the influence of the book, a 'Tom and Jerry' came to refer to a low drinking house in the Regency Period in England and further referred to fighting, drinking and causing trouble (as in "we had a real Tom and Jerry that night").

Arizona fiddler Kenner Kartchner said the tune was from the South and difficult to play in standard tuning. It is known as a Missouri piece and appears to be associated more with states west of the Mississippi River than with the Appalachians and the Deep South. The tune was recorded for the Library of Congress by musicologist/folklorist Vance Randolph from the playing of Ozark Mountain fiddlers in the early 1940's and by Herbert Halpert in 1939. Meade (2002) lists early recordings by Uncle Dave Macon (1927) and the Log Cabin Fiddlers (1929).

The melody has become a flashy and elaborate standard at fiddle contests in modern times.

It was printed in Beisswenger & McCann's **Ozarks Fiddle Music** (2008), Christeson's **Old Time Fiddlers Repertory, vol. 1** (1973), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Thede's **The Fiddle Book** (1967) and Howe's **Musician's Omnibus** (1864).

It was recorded by Herman Johnson on **Champion Fiddling**, Major Franklin on **Texas Fiddle Favorites**, Benny Thomasson (Texas) on **Country Fiddling**, John Ashby on **Old Virginia Fiddling**, Leftwich & Higginbotham on **No One to Bring Home Tonight** (1984), The Dillard's with Byron Berline on **Pickin' and Fiddlin'**, Taylor McBaine on **Boone County Fiddler**, Lymon Enloe, Mark O'Conner on **Pickin' in the Wind** and The Wildcats on **On Our Knees** (1992).