

# Tugboat

Musical score for "Tugboat" in G major, 2/2 time. The score consists of seven staves of music. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is primarily composed of eighth notes and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Staff 1: Measure 1 starts with a boxed section marker **A**. Chords: G, C, G, D7, G.

Staff 2: Measure 4. Chords: Am, D7, G, C, G, D7.

Staff 3: Measure 7. Chords: G, D7, G, C, G, D7.

Staff 4: Measure 11. Chords: G, D7, G, C.

Staff 5: Measure 14. Chords: G, D7, G, C, G, D7, G, G. A boxed section marker **B** is placed above the final G chord. A repeat sign is present at the end of the staff.

Staff 6: Measure 17. This staff contains a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata over the first two notes.

Staff 7: Measure 21. Chords: C, G, D7, G. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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"Tugboat" is an old time breakdown known in West Virginia, Virginia, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas in G Major. The parts are played AABB (Christeson, Phillips) or AA'BBC (Frets). Charles Wolfe (1997) states Kanawha County, West Virginia, fiddler Clark Kessinger (1896-1975) first recorded the tune (in 1929 for Brunswick with his nephew and accompanist, Luches Kessinger, on guitar. The duo was billed as the 'Kessinger Brothers' by the label.) Other fiddlers learned the tune from Kessinger's recording, among them Texas fiddler Benny Thomasson, who was instrumental in inserting the melody into the Texas contest tune repertoire where it remains a popular piece. The tune was also in the repertoire of West Virginia fiddler Edden Hammons. The tune is related to "Ladies on the Steamboat", "Sandy River Belle", "Jullianne Flannigan" and "Sally will You Marry Me".

It was printed in R.P. Christeson's **Old Time Fiddlers Repertory**, vol. 2 (1984), **Frets Magazine**: "Byron Berline: The Fiddle," June, 1988, Phillips's **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes**, vol. 1 (1994).

It was recorded by Kessinger Brothers (1929), Bob Walters (1889-1960) on **Drunken Wagoneer**, Edden Hammons on **The Edden Hammons Collection**, vol. 2. and Byron Berline & John Hickman on **Double Trouble**.