

Wake up Susan

Musical score for "Wake up Susan" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music. The key signature is G major (one sharp). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various chords and repeat signs.

Staff 1: Measure 1-3. Chords: A (boxed), E7. Measure 3 contains a triplet of eighth notes.

Staff 2: Measure 4-7. Chords: D, A, D.

Staff 3: Measure 8-10. Chords: A, E7, A, A (boxed). Measure 8 contains a triplet of eighth notes. There are first and second endings indicated by bracketed lines.

Staff 4: Measure 11-13. Chord: E7.

Staff 5: Measure 14-16. Chords: A, D.

Staff 6: Measure 17-19. Chords: A, E7, A, A (boxed). Measure 17 contains a triplet of eighth notes. There are first and second endings indicated by bracketed lines.

Staff 7: Measure 20-24. Chords: E7, A.

Staff 8: Measure 25-28. Chords: E7, D, A, E7, A. Measure 25 contains a triplet of eighth notes. There are first and second endings indicated by bracketed lines.

"Wake Up Susan", also known as "Wake Susan", "Belcher's Reel", "Hell on the Potomac" (Pa.), "Hell on the Wabash", "Hell on the Rappahanock" (Pa.), "Hop Up Susan", "*Reel des bretelles*" and "Up Jumped Susie" is an old time breakdown known in Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Missouri, Texas, northern N.Y. and Pennsylvania, usually played in A Major. "Wake Up Susan" is a popular and widely disseminated dance tune through much of the East and Midwest. R.P. Christeson (1973) states that "Wake Up Susan" is in most of the older American collections in two-part settings". Samuel Bayard in **Dance to the Fiddle ...** (1981) thinks "Wake Up Susan" to be of American black face minstrel origin using strains from the British Isles. Alan Jabbour (1971) has associated this family of tunes (there are several related airs in American fiddle tradition) with the very popular Irish reel "Mason's Apron". The oldest source for "Wake Up Susan" (with tune and title intact) is in **Ryan's Mammoth Collection** (1883). In addition to the melody appearing under the alternate titles listed above, melodic themes from "Wake Up Susan" appear in other American fiddle tunes.

It brings to mind "Green Willis" even though that is in D while this is in A.

"*Reel des bretelles*" is Quebec fiddler Isidore Soucy's (1899-1963) name for the tune.

It has been printed in Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle March to the Fife** (1981), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 4** (c. 1880's), **Ryan's Mammoth Collection**(1883), **White's Unique Collection** (1896) and others.

It has been recorded by The Red Clay Ramblers, John McCutcheon, Ed Haley, Mac Benford and the Woodshed All-Stars, Paul Van Arsdale (hammered dulcimer) and Adam Hurt (banjo).

I learned it from Paul Van Arsdale and Adam Hurt. The transcription here is mostly Van Arsdale's (minus a few triplets). Hurt omits the B part shown here and plays a different final part. This final part is somewhat reminiscent of the "old reel" that Bayard collected from Sarah Armstrong that is now known as "Sarah Armstrong's Tune" (like "Green Willis", that is also in D).