

Ways of the World

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and a double bar line with repeat dots. The second staff ends with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and a double bar line with repeat dots. The third staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and a boxed 'B', and ends with a double bar line with repeat dots. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line with repeat dots. The fifth staff begins with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and ends with a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and a double bar line with repeat dots. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, Em, A, D, A7, D, D, A7, D, D.

"Ways of the World" is an old time and Bluegrass reel in D Major. The parts are played AABB.

The tune was first recorded in 1937 by Alan and Elizabeth Lomax from the playing of Dalesbury, Ky., fiddler Luther Strong.

Tom Carter and Blanton Owen (1976) identify it as a popular Patrick County, Va., fiddle tune belonging to an early repertoire established before the "band" style, or fiddle/clawhammer banjo combination, became popular.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher. His notes

Mostly from Mac Benford with help from the Gettysburg Jam.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by The Red Hots on **The Red Hots**, John McCutcheon on **Barefoot Boy with Boots On** (1981), Luther Strong (1937), Allan Block and Ralph Lee Smith on **Allan Block and Ralph Lee Smith** (1971), Jay Ungar and Lyn Hardy on **Songs, Ballads and Fiddle Tunes** (1975), The West Orrtanna String Band on **The West Orrtanna String Band** (1977) and Highwoods String Band on **Fire on the Mountain** (1973).