

Westphalia Waltz

A

G Bm Em Bm G Em

Am D Am D

1. D7 G 2. G

B

G Bm Em Bm G

Am D7 Am C D

1. D7 2. G

"Westphalia Waltz" is an American and Canadian waltz in 3/4 time and G Major. The parts are played AB (Beisswenger & McCann), AA'B (Johnson) or AA'BB' (Brody, Matthiesen, Perlman, Phillips).

This popular waltz is widely held to have been composed by Cotton Collins, a Texas fiddler and member of the Lone Star Playboys. It was popularized by Hank Thompson in 1955 on a Capitol Records recording.

The melody was derived from a ribald Polish drinking song called "*Pytala Sie Pani*" (What the Woman Said), an old and well-known (and somewhat bawdy) Polish song, sometimes played at weddings by Polish-American bands.

"*Pytala Sie Pani*" was recorded several times in the 1930's in America for ethnic audiences and Steve Okonski, a fiddler from Bremond, the largest Polish settlement in Texas, brought the tune from Chicago to Bremond in the late 1930's. However, it was in Westphalia (35 miles west of Bremond) that Collins transformed the tune into an American country waltz.

"Westphalia Waltz" is one of the '100 essential Missouri fiddle tunes' according to Missouri fiddler Charlie Walden, and according to Beisswenger & McCann, "likely gained much of its popularity in the Ozarks through fiddle contests". Some Ozarks fiddlers believe it to be an indigenous regional tune. Around the Philadelphia, Pa., area it is known as the "West Philly Waltz".

It was printed in Beisswenger & McCann's **Ozarks Fiddle Music** (2008), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Johnson's **The Kitchen Musician's Occasional: Waltz, Air and Misc., No. 1** (1991), Matthiesen's **Waltz Book I** (1992), Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995) and Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded by Herman Johnson on **Champion Fiddling** (1946),

Cece Webster on **Dulcimer Wizardry**, Lone Star Playboys (w. Cotton Collins, fiddle) on Westphalia Waltz, Kenny Baker and Bobby Hicks on **Darkness on the Delta**, Cotton Combs on **Parkin' Lot Jammin'** (c. 1978), Arm and Hammer String Band on **New England Contra Dance Music** (1977), Doug Goodwin on **New England Traditional Fiddling** (1978), Ernie Hunter on **All About Fiddling** and Lonnie Robertson on **Fiddle Tunes Ozark Style**.