

Whiskey Before Breakfast

Musical score for "Whiskey Before Breakfast" in D Major, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff is marked with a boxed 'A' and contains the first measure of the A section. The second staff continues the A section. The third staff is marked with a boxed 'B' and contains the first measure of the B section. The fourth staff continues the B section, including first and second endings. The fifth staff is the second ending for the B section. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, A7, D, Em, A7, A7, D.

"Whiskey Before Breakfast", also known as "Spirits of the Morning" is a Canadian (originally) and American reel in D Major. The parts are played AABB.

It is a widely known tune, possibly a traditional old-time tune although it has generally been credited to the mid-twentieth century by Manitoba, Canada, fiddler and composer Andy de Jarlis (real name Joseph Patrice Ephreme Desjarlais), probably on the strength of his copyrighted arrangement. It was included in de Jarlis' book **Canadian Fiddle Tunes from Red River Valley** (1957), where he is credited for the arrangement only.

The tune is often used as musical accompaniment for the quadrille "Reel of Eight" in Canada. Sources report that it was played for that dance in the early 20th century and that it was a favorite of Métis dance troupes in Western Canada. Ken Perlman identifies it as coming from Canada's Maritime provinces where it is called "Spirits of the Morning".

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), **Frets Magazine**, April 1989, Gibbons' **As It Comes: Folk Fiddling From Prince George, British Columbia** (1982), Perlman's **Melodic Clawhammer Banjo** (1979), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, Vol. 1** (1994), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002) and Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980).

It was recorded by Loyd Wanzer on **Plain and Fancy Fiddlin'**, Butch Baldassari on **Day in the Country** (1994), Guy Carawan on **Jubilee** (1979), Kretzner and Leibovitz on **Dulcimer Fair** (1981), The Arkansas Sheiks on **Whiskey Before Breakfast** (1975), Clem Myers on **Clem Myers: Northeast Regional Fiddle Champion 1967 & 1970** (1974), John McCutcheon on **How Can I Keep From Singing?** (1975), Andy DeJarlis on **Whiskey Before Breakfast** (7" single), Vesta Johnson on **Down Home Rag** (1988), Taylor McBaine on **Boone County Fiddler** (1987), The West Orrtanna String Band on **The West Orrtanna String Band** (1977), Norman Blake on **Whiskey Before Breakfast** (1976) and Dick Barrett on **Fiddle Jam Sessions**.