

Wild Rose of the Mountain

The musical score for "Wild Rose of the Mountain" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a repeat sign. Above the staff, a box labeled 'A' covers the first measure, and a chord 'A' is written above the second measure. The melody continues with eighth notes and quarter notes, ending with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and a chord 'D' above the final measure. The second staff continues the melody with a chord 'E7' above the first measure and a chord 'A' above the second measure. The third staff features a melody with eighth notes and quarter notes, ending with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and a chord 'E7' above the final measure. A first ending bracket labeled '1.' spans the last two measures, with a chord 'A' above the second measure. The fourth staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above the first measure, with a chord 'A' above the first measure. A box labeled 'B' covers the second measure, with a chord 'A' above it. The fifth staff continues the melody with a chord 'Em' above the second measure. The sixth staff features a melody with eighth notes and quarter notes, ending with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and a chord 'E7' above the final measure. The seventh staff has two first ending brackets labeled '1.' and '2.' above the first and second measures, respectively, with a chord 'A' above each measure.

"Wild Rose of the Mountain" is an old-time reel in A Major/Mixolydian. The parts are played AA'B (Silberberg), AABB (Brody, Phillips) or AA'BB' (Reiner & Anick).

The tune, popularized via the playing of Kentucky fiddler J.P. Fraley (1924–2011), is a moderately paced reel, played deliberately almost as a listening tune.

The story attached to the tune, according to Reiner & Anick, says it was "written for a beautiful girl who strayed from one man to the next at local (Kentucky.) dances" although their source for this tale is unknown.

There is some discrepancy about whether the G note in the next to last measure of the second strain should be sharp or natural.

There are similarities with Henry Reed's "Kitchen Girl".

The tune is crooked with irregular measures in both parts.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983) and **Guitar Picker's Fakebook** (1984), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995), Reiner & Anick's **Old Time Fiddling Across America** (1989), and Silberberg's **Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern** (2002).

It was recorded by Cape Cod Fiddlers on **Concert Collection II** (1999), Fiddle Fever on **Fiddle Fever** (1981. Appears as part of "Daybreak in the Mountains"), John McCutcheon on **Fine Times at Our House** (1982), **The Wind That Shakes the Barley** (1977) and **Water from Another Time. A Retrospective** (1989), Jay Ungar and Lyn Hardy on **Songs, Ballads, and Fiddle Tunes** (1975), J.P. and Annadeene Fraley on **Wild Rose of the Mountain** (1974), J.P. Fraley on **Rouder Fiddle** (1990) and David Schnauffer on **Collecting Dust** (1999).