

Woodchopper's Reel

The musical score for "Woodchopper's Reel" is written in D major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of two sections, A and B, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2.

Section A: This section begins at measure 1 and ends at measure 15. It features a variety of chords including D, G, and A7. Measure 1 starts with a D chord and a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 7 contains a G chord, A7 chord, and a D chord. Measure 15 concludes with a D chord and a triplet of eighth notes.

Section B: This section begins at measure 16 and ends at measure 19. It starts with a D chord and a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a G chord and a D chord. Measure 17 contains a G chord, a D chord, and an A7 chord. Measure 18 concludes with a G chord and a D chord. The section ends with a double bar line.

The score includes several triplets of eighth notes and various chord changes throughout the piece.

"The Woodchopper's Reel", also known "Wood Chopper's Breakdown", "Woodchopper's Breakdown", "Reel de la soupe aux pois" ("Pea Soup"), "Reel des bûcherons", "Lumberjack", "The Woodchopper", "Woodchopper's Breakdown" or "Woodchopper's Hornpipe" is a Canadian (originally) and American reel known in New England, Missouri, Canadian Maritimes and Prince Edward Island in D Major. The parts are played AABB.

This classic mid-20th century reel is the composition of New Brunswick fiddler Ned Landry, born in St. John in February 1921, who also composed "Hillbilly Calypso", "Ontario Swing" and "Bowing the Strings". Landry appeared on Don Messer's radio show *Backwoods Breakdown* in 1934 as a harmonica player and soon formed his own group, the New Brunswick Lumberjacks, whose recordings begin in 1955. French-Canadian titles for the tune include "*Reel de la Soupe aux Pois*" (Pea Soup), the title in Montréal, and "*Reel des bûcherons*" (Lumberjack's Reel) or "*Le Petit Bucheux*" (Little Woodchopper). The reel has become popular in the American Mid-West, probably picked up from Canadian radio broadcasts.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), R.P. Christeson's **Old Time Fiddlers Repertory, vol. 1** (1973), Hinds/Hebert's **Grumbling Old Woman** (1981), Messer's **Anthology of Favorite Fiddle Tunes** (1980), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddlers Repertoire** (1983), Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994) and Sannella's **Balance and Swing**.

It was recorded by Don Messer on **The Best of Don Messer and His Islanders** (1960), Tom Doucet on **Down East Star** (1975), Yankee Ingenuity on **Kitchen Junket** (1977), Fennigs All Stars on **The Hammered Dulcimer Strikes Again**, Sharon Shannon on **The Best of Sharon Shannon: Spellbound** (1999), Louis Beaudoin (1973), Ned Landry (78 RPM) (1950), John Hartford on **Hamilton Breakdown** (2001) and Joe Pancerczewski on **The Fiddling Engineer**.