

#### Set Four

Chinese Breakdown – recorded by the Dixie String Band in 1925 and Scottsdale String Band in 1927, later Don Messer and many others. Several different Southern fiddlers have been suggested as the composer. Nothing to do with China, needless to say!

Silver and Gold - Popular with the Old Fiddler's Club of Rhode Island for many decades, this tune probably was spread in New England by Canadian fiddler Don Messer who published it in his 1948 "*Anthology of Favorite Fiddle Tunes.*"

Ragtime Annie – also commonly called 'Raggedy Ann'. Recorded by the great Texas fiddler and showman A. C. 'Eck' Robertson in 1922(see Youtube) – one of the first, if not THE first country western fiddle hits. Robertson plays three parts D-D-G. Hundreds of times recorded since.

Fisher's Hornpipe – Who composed this melody is the subject of debate, but Dancing Master John Griffiths included this English tune in his "*Collection of the Newest and Most Fashionable Country Dances and Cotillions*" published in Rhode Island in 1788. It has been a New England favorite ever since. Published versions often set the tune in the Key of F rather than today's more common D. Try it in F, you might like it!

Scotch Hornpipe - One of many hornpipes in the classic Ryan/Cole fiddle collection derived from the tune book collected in New England by Elias Howe before the Civil War and in many collections of tunes from around the USA. This tune was a favorite of master fiddler Frank Moon, for over 70 years a leading member of the Old Fiddler's Club of Rhode Island, who recorded it repeatedly. The tune was also collected by Helen Flanders who compiled the classic collection of New England folk tunes and songs. In her "Green Mountain Songster". Her version and several other songs and tunes from early Rhode Island have recently been collected in a new booklet "The Rhode Island Songster" published this year by Armand Aromin and Bernard Gagliardi of Providence.

Grand Old Flag – "You're a Grand Old Flag" was written in 1906 for his show "George Washington, Jr" by the Providence-born showman, George M. Cohan.

Over There – Another George M. Cohan song, written in 1917 the height of American patriotic fervor at the entry of the USA into WW I. Two million copies were sold. Cohan was awarded a gold medal by President Roosevelt in 1936 in recognition of his patriotic musical efforts.

Yankee Doodle – Apparently this tune goes back to Medieval times. The earliest words in English are supposed to have been written by British army surgeon Richard Shuckburgh while serving in NY during the French and Indian War in 1755, re-worded in a 15-verse 1775 broadsheet by Edward Bangs.

Petronella - Petronella was published in Nathaniel Gow's Scottish dance collection about 1820 and was played in New England soon after. The tune was taught around New England in the mid-1900s by Ralph Page and other dance callers.

Over the Waterfall – one of many tunes learned from Virginia fiddler Henry Reed by folklorist Alan Jabbour. There are some tunes in older collections that are somewhat similar. Reed was also the source

for Frosty Morning, Kitchen Girl, Texas (Newcastle), Rocking the Babies to Sleep and a long list of other tunes that are now common among Old Time revival players.

Country Waltz – of uncertain origin, but probably from Prince Edward Island, Canada. Often recorded.

Peek-a-boo Waltz – possibly a composition of vaudeville musician William J. Scanlon (1856-1898) who published it in 1881. It became widely popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> C.

Pig Ankle Rag – this tune starting appearing in tune collections and recordings around the 1940s. It is similar to a tune “Pig Ankle Strut” recorded in Memphis in 1928 by Gus Cannon.

Nelly Bly – an 1850 song by Stephen Foster. A campaign song for Abraham Lincoln used the tune. In the 1880s a redoubtable lady reporter, Elizabeth Cochran (1864-1922), took the name as her pen name - Nelly Bly - and in 1889 was sent on a sensational round the world trip that she completed in 72 days, six hours and 11 minutes.

Ring, Ring the Banjo “Ring the Banjo” in B. Kerr’s “Merrie Melodies” tune collection published in the 1880s.

Camptown Races- Stephen Foster (1826-1864) wrote many songs which still form part of the standard fiddle repertoire., perhaps because there are many parodies of the verses. ‘Camptown’ probably refers to the village of Camptown, in NE Pennsylvania. Foster is known to have visited there and a racetrack was nearby. This tune was published in 1850 and became a popular part of the Christy Minstrels show. ‘Christy Minstrels’ was more of a franchise than just a band – groups using this name travelled around the world, even to remote spots like New Zealand, during the mid to late 1800s.

Oh, Suzanna - Another Foster song, published in 1848, first performed by a men’s quintet at a concert in Andrew’s Eagle Ice Cream Saloon in Pittsburgh the previous fall. If you listen carefully you realize that it is really a polka. Supposedly, no American song had sold over 5000 copies before this one, “Oh Susanna” sold over 100,000. I was just in a jam session this week where this tune was happily played, 172 years after its composition...

Gardebylaten – “The tune from Gardeby” This is a ‘gamlat’ (GAHNG-lawt) –a Swedish ‘walking tune’. It is often called by the English name “Bubbling Over”. I’ve been told that in Sweden they avoid this tune because it has been overplayed to the point of nausea, but ‘chestnuts’ are chestnuts for a reason. We just played it at a session this week in Massachusetts. There are plenty of Swedish versions on Youtube.

Tzena, Tzena – a pop song written in 1941 by Issachar Miron, a Polish immigrant to Israel. The original Hebrew words say more or less, “Go out girls and meet the guys out at the farm. Don’t hide away.” It was recorded in various versions by the Weavers, the Smothers Brothers and Chet Atkins.

Tic Ti Tic Ta – There is a great version of this from 1927 on Youtube “Tic-Ti Tic-Ta - Canzonetta (Feola -Lama) by Rosetta Ferlito” for the Gramophone Co,

Charlie Kopanski’s Polka – Charlie was a member of OFCRI for some years - this was one of his signature tunes.

Flanagan’s Polka – or, more commonly ‘Flanigan’s’ is in several tune collections of the 1920s. The well-known Boston musician Peter Barnes included it in his widely used book “*A Little Couple Dancemusik – 400 waltzes, Polkas, Tangos, Hambos, Zwiefachers and other Traditional Dance Tunes*” which has been the bible for many dance bands for many years. A peppy version by the great Don Messer is on Youtube.

Jamaica Farewell – probably a West Indian folksong which was standardized by Irving Burgie in Barbados and first recorded commercially by Harry Belafonte in 1957, later by the Kingston Trio and others.

Yellow Bird –An 1883 poem by Oswald Durand “Choucouné” was set to music based on folk themes by the pianist Nichel Monton in 1893. Later it was set to new unrelated English lyrics as “Yellow Bird”. It was recorded as a pop hit by the Mills Brothers in 1959 and later, Lawrence Welk, then returned to the Caribbean where it was recorded by several Calypso singers, then by Fairport Convention, Roger Whittaker, The Wiggles, etc.

Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White – A French Pop hit written by Louiguy in 1950 became a huge instrumental hit in the USA with trumpeter Billy Regis’ interpretation in 1955. Many times recorded.

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Note that nearly all of these tunes have excellent versions available on YouTube. The fiddle tunes as annotated by folklorist collectors are included in Miller and Perron’s “New England Fiddler’s Repertory”, in “The Milliner-Koken Collection of American Fiddle Tunes”, in “Old Kentucky Fiddle Tunes” by Jeff Titon, in “The Waltz Books I, II, III” by Bill Mattingley, “The Portland Collections 1,2, 3” by Songer and Curley, David Brody’s “The Fiddler’s Fakebook”, Samuel Bayard’s “Hill Country Tunes” and others...