

Tennessee Waltz

Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart (1948)

The musical score for "Tennessee Waltz" is presented in six staves of music. The key signature is G major (one sharp) and the time signature is 3/4. The notation includes various chords and melodic lines. The chords are: G, C, G, (Em), D(Am), D, G, C, G, D, G, B7, C, G, (Em), D(Am), D, G, C, G, D, G.

This notation is part of an experiment based on the last day of Band Camp 2021, when it was made clear that folks would like to have advance materials in order to work on arrangements.

On the recording I played this tune quite simply. When I sing the verse I honor the rhythm of the original, which begins "I was dancin' with my darlin'" where the words dancin' and darlin' fall at the beginning of the first two full measures, and each word has an eighth note followed by a dotted quarter. When I sing I employ this dotted rhythm. When I play an instrumental break, I tend to straighten it out for variety; for some reason, I recorded the melody that way here, out of habit. Play around with it as you see fit!

I tend to put some swing into waltzes. If you play it as written without the swing, it won't match the rhythm on the recording. What is swing? Many have tried to explain it, but no one has figured out how to notate it. An attempt to notate swing is liable to look cluttered with dotted figures, broken triplets and who knows what, and would still not capture the feel of the playing, so it is cleaner to write it out "straight" and simply say, "Play with swing!"

The notation represents my effort to transcribe what I played on the first time through the melody and the harmony.

The second time through I ornament the melody a bit, and in the harmony part abandon the melodic harmony part to play some arpeggiated chords, which follow the alternate chords (the ones in parentheses). For help with backup gimme a shout, or check in with Janet!

Take a look at these two pages of dots and a listen to the mp3 files. Let me know if having this sort of material sent out in advance might work (with different music next time, of course) in future. All questions, comments and critiques welcomed! mick@nwdulcimer.com