

Cacklin' Hen

Traditional

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G

2/4

6

D7 G

10

D7 G

14

19

1. D7 G

23

2. D7 G D7 G

27

I first heard this tune on an LP entitled "A Corn Licker Still in Georgia," a compilation of a serialized novelty skit recorded by Gid Tanner and the Skillet Lickers in the late twenties. In between the skit, which was about running a speakeasy, making illegal liquor, bribing law enforcement officers, getting busted and going to jail, getting out and starting all over again, the group played fragments of a bunch of tunes, including Cacklin' Hen, Soldier's Joy, Katy hill, Leather Britches, Possum Up a Gum Stump, Done Gone, Chinese Breakdown, Back Up and Push, and Liberty. The last is not the tune found in this collection more commonly known by that name, hence explaining why you sometimes hear it called "Liberty Off the Corn Licker Still."

A recording of this tune is used as the intro background music to this software. I have taken a few liberties with the tune, particularly with the structure of the B part, which is the hen cackle. Note the fragment of diminished chord found at the end of measure 6. This is to give a little bit of a ragtime feel to it. The single notes in measures 19 and 20 should be dampened heavily; this is the chicken clucking just before the cackle, after all. In the same vein, the fourth string notes in measures 21 through 23 should also be dampened.