

Walk Chalk Chicken

Traditional

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The sheet music is arranged in six systems, each with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The music is written for a four-string ukulele. Chords are indicated by letters (G, C, D7, E7) and accidentals (A, E) above the staff. Fingerings are shown with numbers 1-4. Techniques like hammer-ons (H), pull-offs (Po), and slides (Sl) are marked. A double bar line with repeat dots appears in the first system. An 'Extra beat' is indicated in the third system. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots in the sixth system.

System 1: G (A) C (D). Notes: 2, 4, 2, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4, 5, 5.

System 2: G (A) D7 (E7) G (A) D7 (E7). Notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 5, 5, 4, 4, 4, 5, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.

System 3: G (A) D7 (E7) G (A) Extra beat. Notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 2, 0, 2, 4, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3, 2, 4, 0, 0, 0.

System 4: C (D) G (A) D7 (E7). Notes: 0, 0, 0, 2, 4, 3, 4, 2, 0, 2, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3, 2, 4, 0, 0, 0.

System 5: D7 (E7) G (A). Notes: 0, 0, 0, 4, 5, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 4, 0, 0, 0.

System 6: Notes: 0, 0.

D7 (E7)

This tune comes from old-time fiddler Melvin Wine (1909 - 2003) of Braxton County, West Virginia. The tune has an AAB structure, with the B part, the course part, played only once through each time. Both parts have an extra beat at the end, and both parts begin with anticipation, i.e. with the opening note played ahead of the beat, at the end of the previous measure. I have tried to build that into the banjo arrangement.

Wine's also sometimes called the tune by a longer title, Walk Chalk Chicken with a Necktie On. The tune likely gets its name from the Chalk Line Walk, which was an early, anti-bellum version of the African American Cake-Walk. in which slaves performed an exaggerated parody of the formal dances of their slave masters.