

Ted Sharp

Pike's Peak

As played by **Ted Sharp**, Hinman & **Sharp** in *Echoes of the Ozarks, Vol. 1* (County CD-3506, 1995); recorded c. 11/8/33; time: 2/2; key: C; scale: hexatonic major (no 4th); pattern: AABB (8,8,8,8); tuning: standard

The musical score for "Pike's Peak" is presented in three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a 2/2 time signature, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked "♩ = 184". The first staff contains the first 8 measures of the A section, marked with a box 'A' and a 'C' chord above the first measure. The second staff contains the next 8 measures, including the start of the B section marked with a box 'B' and a 'VI' chord above the 10th measure. The third staff contains the final 8 measures, including a double bar line, a 'D.C.' (Da Capo) instruction, and a 'G' chord above the 18th measure. The score concludes with a 'Variation VI' section.

Little is known about the **Ted Sharp** who recorded this tune, but some scholars have linked his clean playing style to the Ozarks (see liner notes to County CD-3506). His 1933 recording of "Pike's Peak" has become a classic. The Kessinger Brothers recorded with tune in the 1920s under the title "Rat Cheese Under the Hill" (perhaps a take off on "Natchez Under the Hill"), but Sharp's crisper version of the tune under the title "Pike's Peak" seems to have become most well-known. The tune's connection to "Natchez Under the Hill," which is often linked to "Turkey in the Straw," is certainly possible since "Pike's Peak," especially its B part, is similar to "Turkey in the Straw." *Fiddler's Companion* also links the tune to "Prosperity Special." Other musical transcriptions can be found in *Phillips 1* (p. 184) and *Songer 1* (p. 160). Meade (p.787) connects this tune to "Rat Cheese Under the Hill," and lists three early commercial recordings, the earliest being by the Kessinger Brothers (1929); the other two are the one transcribed above and one by Bob Wills (1938).