

# West Virginia Polka

## Traditional

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C

The musical score is written for guitar in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first line of music (measures 1-4) starts with a C chord and includes a hammer-on (H) over the 4th and 5th frets. The second line (measures 5-8) features an F chord and a G7 chord, with a pull-off (Po) in measure 8. The third line (measures 9-12) returns to a C chord and includes another hammer-on (H). The fourth line (measures 13-16) features an F chord and a C chord, with a pull-off (Po) in measure 16. The fifth line (measures 17-20) features a C chord and a G7 chord, with a pull-off (Po) in measure 17. The sixth line (measures 21-24) features a C chord and includes a pull-off (Po) in measure 24. The seventh line (measures 25-28) features a C chord and ends with a double bar line. Chord diagrams for C, F, and G7 are provided throughout the score.

The oldest version of this lively melody that I could find was a country music vocal recorded by Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper for Columbia

Records in 1951. Here are the words...

Upsy, daisy, don't be lazy,  
Time to get your gal persuaded,  
Hold her in your arms and dance,  
The West Virginia Polka.

Joy 'n' merry, never tarry,  
With the news that they must carry,  
Whisper softly in her ear,  
The West Virginia Polka.

Say it sweet that we could meet,  
Beneath the mountain moon,  
To press your lips, dear, while we skip,  
To the West Virginia tune.

Let your heart be light and gay,  
And herd your weary blues away,  
Say you will belong to me,  
To the West Virginia Polka.

This arrangement is based on the instrumental version played by fiddler Harvey "Pappy" Taylor (1894-1987) of Effingham, Illinois, who was recorded in his home by the tune collector team of Garry Harrison and Lynn "Chirps" Smith in 1975. Whether Taylor worked this up from the Cooper recording, or knew the tune from other sources, I could not find out.