

Tune of the Month

Whiskey Before Breakfast

This is another bluegrass and old-time standard. It is often played rapidly but does not have to be. The version shown here is reprinted with permission by Jay Dean Ludiker. For another version, see page 290 of the Fiddler's Fakebook. The tune was originally from Canada, where it is sometimes called "Spirits of the Morning", which is just a hop, skip and a jump away from the more well-known title!

The musical score for "Whiskey Before Breakfast" is presented in a single system of eight staves. The key signature is G major (one sharp) and the time signature is 2/4. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs. A fermata is placed over the final note of the eighth staff. A dynamic marking 'v' (forte) is placed above the first note of the fifth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the eighth staff.