

Tune of the Month: Mexican Waltz

Mexican Waltz is from “Roses in Winter, A Celebration of Fiddlers in Washington State.” This CD/ book combination contains a collection of tunes taught at workshops put on by the Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association’s District 8, 2001-2003. The tune was presented by Floyd Engstrom. The book says, in part: “Despite its name, there is a very Scandinavian sound to the ‘a’ part of this tune, especially in its melodic structure based on arpeggiated phrases. Floyd’s bowing varies: Sometimes he plays typical, Scandinavian-style two-note slurs with the beat . . . then will vary that with two or three note slurs across the beat, in which the bow slurs down onto the beat in a Midwestern manner. This unpredictability in his bowing adds an attractive rhythmic variety to the tune. Floyd plays uses drones and slides sparingly, as ornaments. As in his hoedowns, the rhythmic emphasis here is subtle, rather than driving.

Mexican Waltz

The musical score for "Mexican Waltz" is presented in four systems of music on a single staff in treble clef, 3/4 time, and the key of D major (one sharp). The score includes the following elements:

- System 1:** The first line of music. Above the staff, the chords D, D, G, and G are indicated. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.
- System 2:** The second line of music. Above the staff, the chords A, A, D, 1. D, and 2. D are indicated. The melody features a triplet of eighth notes in the fourth measure, followed by a first ending (1. D) and a second ending (2. D).
- System 3:** The third line of music. Above the staff, the chords D, D, G, and Em are indicated. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes.
- System 4:** The fourth line of music. Above the staff, the chords A, A, D, 1. D, and 2. D are indicated. This system mirrors the structure of the second system, including a triplet and first/second endings.