

A note from Paul Wilson on the tune Al Capones Vals

First a brief story directly from Magnus Gustafsson (Swedish folklorist from Småland) and then a transcription of the tune, not made by me, of my playing of it. Good luck!

Paul

as told by Magnus Gustafsson...

The tune was played by the famous Swedish fiddler and accordionist Ivar Andersson ("Ivar I Ulvaboda") (1899-1987). He learned it from his father who was also a fiddler. He emigrated to the US when he was young and stayed 15 years in Chicago, where he, during a couple of years, worked as an "ice-boy" at one of Al Capone's places. By strange coincidences he played some tunes for Capone and the gangster king came to especially appreciate this waltz. During a short period of time he played this tune every morning as a form of ritual at Capone's office. Just before World War II Ivar moved back to Sweden and settled at small farm in Ulvaboda ("The Wolfe Stead") in Blekinge in southeast Sweden.

I met Ivar the first time in the mid 70's and learntz this tune from him. I've played quite a lot since then and taught it at several fiddle-camps, both in Scandinavia and in the US. It has really spread widely. Ivar would have been glad if he knew...

AL CAPONE'S VALS

Efter Skål Klubben, Nisswa, Minnesota/VDH

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign. The melody features eighth and sixteenth notes, with a trill (tr) on the final note of the first phrase. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols 'D' are placed above the first, second, and fourth measures.

The second system continues the piece with two staves. The top staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bottom staff has a bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols 'A', 'A', 'G', and 'D' are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

The third system consists of two staves. The top staff features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a trill (tr) on the final note. The bottom staff has a bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols 'D', 'D', 'D', and 'D' are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth measures.

The fourth system consists of two staves. The top staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a trill (tr) on the final note. The bottom staff has a bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols 'A', 'A', 'D', and 'D' are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth measures.

The fifth system consists of two staves. The top staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a trill (tr) on the final note. The bottom staff has a bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols 'G', 'G', 'G', and 'D' are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth measures.

The sixth system consists of two staves. The top staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a trill (tr) on the final note. The bottom staff has a bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols 'A', 'A', 'D', and 'D' are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth measures.

The seventh system consists of two staves. The top staff has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a trill (tr) on the final note. The bottom staff has a bass line with quarter notes. Chord symbols 'G', 'G', 'G', and 'D' are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth measures.

Min gode veninde Kirsten Tvede hørte denne melodi for et par år siden til et spillemandsstævne i Degeberga i Sverige. Hun fik ikke rigtig fat i den og efterlyste den så på Internettet uden resultat. Jeg så efterlysningen for kort tid siden, og via nettet fandt jeg frem til Paul Wilson og Mary Abendroth fra Brainerd i Minnesota, USA. De har skandinaviske rødder og de spiller med i et skandinavisk inspireret orkester ved navn "Skål Klubben". Og "Skål Klubben" har indspillet "Al Capone's Vals", som de har lært af en svensk spillemand (Magnus Gustafsson).

Ved stor velvillighed fra Pauls og Marys side fik jeg så mulighed for at downloade melodien, så jeg kunne aflæse den og skrive den på noder.

Og her er den så - vistnok en svensk melodi (efter Magnus Gustafsson), hentet i USA og med en andenstemme fra Køge.

Vagn Dahl Hansen