

SINGABOUT

WINTER 2022

MIKE WATERS

In this edition of Singabout we look at some of the legacy of music left by Mike Waters. While he is possibly better known for his dance compositions, he also composed tunes to go with many of them.

On the following two pages you will find a selection of tunes composed by Mike over the years. Ralph Pride has gathered these and others, together with some of Mike's poems that were published in Mulga Wire, in a collection called *Music from "Down the Track"*.

In his introduction, Ralph says:

“Sadly, many excellent musicians never have the opportunity these days to hone their art by playing for real live dancers. Conversely, many dancers have little understanding of making music. How fortunate are those with experience and skills in both camps.

Mike Waters was such a person. Dancer and musician. Not only have his publications been an invaluable resource for both musicians and dancers, but he was always ready and happy to share the benefit of his experience in person when asked.”

Happy Days Ahead

Mike Waters 1985

Musical score for 'Happy Days Ahead' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of six staves of music. The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, A7, and D. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Sydney Schottische

Mike Waters 1990

Musical score for 'Sydney Schottische' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, Em, A7, and D. There are also triplets marked with a '3' over the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Miss Campbell's Delight

Mike Waters 1992

Musical score for "Miss Campbell's Delight" in G major, 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are the main melody, and the last two are a bass line. Chords are indicated above the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Macarthur's Jig

Mike Waters 1996

Musical score for "Macarthur's Jig" in D major, 6/8 time. The score consists of five staves. The first two staves are the main melody, and the last three are a bass line. Chords are indicated above the notes. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Hans Stohmann's Waltz

The image shows a musical score for 'Hans Stohmann's Waltz'. It consists of four staves of music written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. Chord markings 'G', 'C', 'D7', and 'G' are placed above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with similar rhythmic patterns and chord markings 'G', 'C', 'D7', and 'G'. The third staff features a more active melody with eighth notes and quarter notes, with chord markings 'G', 'C', 'D7', and 'G'. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence, marked with 'G', 'D7', and 'G'.

This tune was collected by Mark Schuster and Maria Zann. Last year we had Mark come to the BMC Concert Party session on Monday night a couple of times. He had moved down to Sydney for work and told us that there was far fewer people in the bush playing this type of music. He was thrilled to see that the tradition was still being kept alive and enjoyed joining in with his button accordion.

The “Slow Session” that meets before the Concert Party has been learning a number of different collected tunes, including this one. The Hans Stohmann's Waltz was taught at the Bush Traditions workshop held at the National Folk Festival in Canberra during Easter this year. It is a nice tune to have a play with beside the fire on a cold winter's night.

George Bolliger