

Backblock Shearer

Australia, Vic, Swan Hill

Musical notation for 'Backblock Shearer' in G major, 6/8 time. The piece consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written in eighth notes and quarter notes. Chords G, D7, and G are indicated above the staff. The second staff is identical to the first, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Book: Peter Ellis, "The Waltz, The Polka and All Kinds of Dance Music", p230, 2007

Source: collected from Morrie Gierisch, Swan Hill, Vic

Peter Ellis Collection, NLA

Notes: Morrie now plays this tune as a waltz as well as in 6-8 and often does it as an item switching from one time signature to the other.

I think Morrie thinks the waltz is the Irish antecedant of Home Sweet Home,

(which is isn't) but possibly got it from Alan Musgrove's CD where I

think one of the Omeo performers sings it as a waltz. The tune is

"Castle Gardens", from Ireland. The original is in 4-4, but Edgar Waters would say it's really originally come to Ireland from an English broadsheet.

This whole blurb just summarises what the folk process is all about. Peter Ellis