

The Onboard Waltz

Koster Waltz

David Hellstrom (1883 - 1965)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes: D, A7, D, A7, G, A7, G, A7, D, D, A7, D, G, (Em), D, A7, D, FIN, D, G, D, G, Em, A7, D, A7, G, A7, D. There are also triplets marked with a '3' and a fermata over the final G chord.

Rhythm: Waltz

Source: collected from the Brown boys, Cape Barron Island, Tas

History: The Brown Boys were descendants of Aborigines who lived on Cape Barron Island.

This tune was routinely played by them 'onboard' ships that visited the Island.

This tune was also collected from Eileen McCoy & the Dawsons, Tasmania.

David Hellstrom was a Swedish composer from the province of Bohuslan.

He was born September 23, 1883 in Stromstad and died there on April 7, 1965 at the age of eighty-one.

As a young man he enlisted in the Royal Bohuslan Regiment, where he studied music and played the French horn. He returned to civilian life after attaining the rank of sergeant.

After leaving the military Hellstrom continued with his musical activities, composing both waltzes and marches. He often worked with lyricist Goran Svenning.

In 1907 the two men submitted Kostervalsen in a Bohuslan contest for the province's best new melody. Their entry was disqualified when the jury ruled it was 'too suggestive'. Despite the setback, the partnership endured and produced many memorable songs.

In 1962 David Hellstrom was awarded the Fred Winter prize for his contributions to Swedish music."