

Blackie Cool's A Polka in G

duet

Blackie Cool © 1984
arr. by Sam Rizzetta

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with a melody line (top staff) and a harmony line (bottom staff). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 130. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes guitar chords: G, D, D7, C, G, G in the first system; G, D, G in the second system; G, C, G, D in the third system; and G, C, G, D, G in the fourth system. The melody line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The harmony line starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, with measure numbers 9, 17, and 25 indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth system.

This catchy polka was composed and played by my neighbor and legendary West Virginia guitarist Blackie Cool. He played it in the key of A and never gave it a name. It works really well on hammer dulcimer. I have transposed it here into the key of G for the convenience of 12-11 dulcimers and added a few dulcimer licks. But this arrangement does preserve the bluesy chromatics and parallel harmonies of Blackie's guitar playing. Try it in the key of A if it suits your instrument. I've separated it into two parts for a dulcimer duet.