

Blackie Cool's A Polka

Blackie Cool © 1984
arr. by Sam Rizzetta

♩ = 130

A

E

6

D A G# A

12

E A

17

A G# A A G# A D C# D A

22

E A G# A A G# A

27

D C# D A E A

This catchy polka was composed by my friend, neighbor, and legendary guitarist, Blackie Cool. He played it finger picking style in the key of A and never named it. It works well on hammer dulcimer. Melody is the top line, harmony below. This arrangement preserves some of the bluesy chromatics and parallel harmonies of Blackie's playing. Note the short 1st and 9th measures. Rhythm guitarists can omit the quick flat chords. When picking melody, Blackie played the flat chords with slides up to the next chord, Ab to A and Db to D. See also the version in the key of G.

"A Polka" can be heard on the album *Blackie Cool, Back Memories*, AHR 002, Augusta Heritage Records, 1984, Augusta Heritage Arts Workshops, Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, WV 26241.

Blackie played and sang an amazing variety of music, including old time tunes, blues, ragtime, polkas, and music learned in Mexico while traveling with a circus. His very colorful life is recounted in an interview in the West Virginia magazine *Goldenseal*, Vol. 7, No. 3. It was reprinted in *Mountains of Music, West Virginia Traditional Music From Goldenseal*, 1999, West Virginia Division of Culture and History.