

The Tune The Old Cow Died On

an Illinois version from Chirps Smith

This tune was based on a comic song written in 1880 by Joseph Eastburn Winner (composer of "Little Brown Jug"), with words by George Russell Jackson. The song, about a cow so entranced by a farmer's song that she danced herself to death, appears as #95 in **Dance to the Fiddle, March to the Fife**, by Sam Bayard, 1981. The title became a phrase characterizing any extremely bad piece of music. [ref. Traditional Tune Archive] Chirps Smith learned this two-part Illinois version from Gary Harrison.