

"Victory Rag"

Arranged by: John James (c. 1967)

Transcribed by: K.Fish & S.J. McWilliam - 1980
Re-transcribed by: Steve J. McWilliam - 2012
TablEdited by: Steve J. McWilliam - 2012

Measures 1-4: Intro. The notation shows a 4/4 time signature with a 3/5 measure. The bass line consists of a series of triplets: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0. The treble line has notes: 4, 3/5, 4, 3, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0, 2, 3/5, 5, 5, 5, 5.

Measures 5-8: Section 1. The bass line continues with triplets: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0. The treble line has notes: 5, 5, 5, 5, 3/5, 4, 3, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 1, 3, 1, 0.

Measures 9-12: The bass line has notes: 1, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 0, 1, 3, 5, 4, 4, 0. The treble line has notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 0, 1, 3, 5, 4, 4, 0. Includes a 'Po' (Percussion) marking above measure 10 and a 'Sl' (Slide) marking above measure 11.

Measures 13-16: The bass line has notes: 3, 0, 0, 3, 1, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3, 3, 3, 3, 0, 1, 3, 1, 0. The treble line has notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 2, 3, 2, 0. Includes a 'R' (Roll) marking below measure 14 and a 'H' (Hammer) marking above measure 16.

Measures 17-20: The bass line has notes: 1, 2, 0, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 0, 1, 3, 5, 4, 4, 0. The treble line has notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 0, 1, 3, 5, 4, 4, 0. Includes a 'Po' (Percussion) marking above measure 18 and a 'Sl' (Slide) marking above measure 19.

Measures 21-24: Section 2. The bass line has notes: 3, 0, 0, 3, 1, 3, 0, 3, 1, 2, 0, 1, 3, 7, 7, 8, 7, 8, 7, 0. The treble line has notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 3, 3, 2, 0, 2, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6. Includes 'R' (Roll) markings below measures 22 and 23, and a '3/7' marking below measure 24.

Measures 25-29: The bass line has notes: 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 7, 5, 5, 5, 0, 3, 0, 3, 0, 3, 5, 5, 4, 4, 5, 4, 4. The treble line has notes: 5, 5, 7, 7, 7, 7, 6, 5, 4, 4, 5, 4, 4, 5, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3. Includes a '3/5' marking below measure 28.

Measures 30-33: Section 3. The bass line has notes: 2, 0, 0, 2, 3, 0, 1, 3, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 0, 2, 3, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3. The treble line has notes: 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 3, 3, 0, 0, 0, 3, 0, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1. Includes a '3' marking below measure 30, a '4/4' marking below measure 31, and a 'Po' (Percussion) marking above measure 33.

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Section 4

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Section 5

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Section 6

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Section 7

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87

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A Tape and Tab Club (T'n'T) Arrangement - (Tape 'n' Tab Club)

"Victory Rag" - Arranged by: John James - circa 1968

Arranged/Transcribed by: Kieran Fish & Steve J. McWilliam - 1980

Tabbed In TablEdit by: Steve J. McWilliam - 2012

A guitar ragtime tune originally recorded by Maybelle Carter. Mother Maybelle Carter told the New Lost City Ramblers she learned it from a guitar player at an Old Dominion Barn Dance in Richmond, Virginia in the early 1950's.

A very similar, though more complex, version of the tune to the one tabbed here was originally played by John James in the late 1960's and was released on the Matchbox record label under the name of "Maybelle Rag". Its true name of "Victory Rag" was applied to later recordings such as "John James In Concert" on the Kicking Mule label (vinyl) and later by Stefan Grossman's Guitar Workshop on CD (sggw146).

The version tabbed here was originally transcribed from John James' playing by Kieran Fish back in 1980 but sadly the transcription was lost and could not be found (amazingly I seemed to have had the only copy and that had gone too). Consequently, I (Steve McWilliam) re-transcribed it based on what I could remember of Kieran's transcription and then added my own thoughts on the subject. As a result it does not completely match John's versions and, in fact, departs greatly from it, but it shouldn't be too far off and should at least be a reasonable version to play. Enjoy.