

Sonny's Mazurka
aka: Sonny Brogan's Mazurka
 3/4 K:D "a-1,-3;-5 b-5,1;3" aabb "SRSC"

History:

"Sonny's Mazurka" is a traditional Irish tune played as a mazurka in 3/4-time;
 The mazurka (also spelled and pronounced "mazourka") was originally a couples dance from Poland where "Mazur" is the name given to an inhabitant of the province of Mazovia and to its characteristic dance.
 Through the 1600s-1700s, the mazurka spread across Poland, the whole of Europe, and eventually into Britain and Ireland in the 1840s;
 Like the jig and polka, the mazurka was incorporated into the repertoire of folk musicians who played for dancers;
 The tune was named for the late Sonny Brogan, a well-known "box" (accordion) player from Dublin;
 Sonny was a member of the band "Ceoltoiri Chualann" which was a forerunner of "The Chieftains" in the 1960s;
 "Sonny's Mazurka" is often played with "Shoe the Donkey" (aka: "Put Your Little Foot") as a two tune set;

"Sonny's Mazurka" basic melody:

aD: D3F#; | A, AGF#A | D2, DABA | "S"
 | G3, GBAG | F#GEF# "R"
 D3F#; | A, AGF#A | D2, DABA | "S"
 | G3, GG1F#E | D (D) ; "C" Fiddlers: Play an extra (D) to reset the bow if needed;

b A2D; | F#, F#AGF# | E, EGF#E | "S"
 | D2, DF#ED | C#DBC# "R"
 A2D; | F#, F#AGF# | E, EGF#E | "S"
 | D2, DF#EC# | D (D) ; "C" Fiddlers: Play an extra (D) to reset the bow if needed;

"Sonny's Mazurka" ornaments:

bPart's "Response" can be played with a "triple":
 | D2, DF#ED | {C#DC#} 3BC# (fiddlers: I refer to {C#DC#} 3 as a "bowed triplet");

Learning and Practice "Notes":

1. In the Irish tradition, "Sonny's Mazurka" is always played in the K:D;
2. Although mazurkas are "written" in 3/4-time, the mazurka rhythm is not the same as a "waltz":
 in the "waltz" dance rhythm, the accent is on the first beat of the measure (1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2...);
 in the "mazurka" dance rhythm, the accent is on the second beat of the measure (1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2...);
3. The way "Sonny's Mazurka" is pulsed is: 1 2 & 3 & 1 2 & 3 &;
 Say (preferably sing) this rhythm several times to get used to the rhythm and "pulsing" the second beat;

SONNY BROGAN'S MAZURKA

Musical score for Sonny Brogan's Mazurka, featuring three staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first staff contains the first line of music with chords D, A7, and D. The second staff contains the second line of music with chords A and D. The third staff contains the third line of music with chords Bm, A, D, A, D, A, and D. The score includes various articulations such as accents, slurs, and a triplet.

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Musical score for Sonny's Mazurka, featuring three staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first staff contains the first line of music. The second staff contains the second line of music. The third staff contains the third line of music. The score includes various articulations such as slurs and accents.