

# Helvetia Waltz

I had the privilege of sharing a room with renowned West Virginia hammered dulcimer player, Patty Looman, when we served on the teaching faculty of Augusta Heritage Spring Music Week. She taught me this lovely waltz that she learned from West Virginia fiddler Israel Welch, born 1912. It comes from the Swiss-German community of Helvetia (hel-vee-sha), WV. Israel is now gone and Patty died June 5, 2012. The legacy they left us is priceless and the music goes on.

Tuning: DAD  
Mode: Ionian

1

0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	0	0	0								
3	3	3	3	5	4	4	4	4	3	0	0								
2	3	4	4	4	7	6+	6+	6+	5	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	2	4	3

5

0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	3	3	5												
3	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	5	4	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	7

10

4	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4							
4	4	4	4	3	3	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4							
6+	6+	6+	5	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	2	4	7	6+	6+	8	6+	6+	5	6+	4

15

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5
7	7	6+	7	8	7	7	7	7	8	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6+	5	4	4	4

20

20

0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	5				
4	4	4	4	5	4	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	0	2	2	2	7	8

25

25

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6+	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

28

28

0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	2	2
5	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
4	4	4	4	5	4	1	1	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Playing Tips

1. Remember, this is a waltz - every measure has only three beats. Follow the rhythm markings closely until the 1-2-3 strum comes naturally.
2. If there is just one tab number instead of a chord, play just the one number. Playing just one string is a 'flatpicking' technique. The best dulcimer music comes from combining techniques, such as flatpicking and strumming. It gets you through the music quicker and doesn't sound as heavy-handed as a full chord on every strum. That can be overkill!
3. Pay close attention to '6' and '6+'. Both are in this waltz!
4. Perfect the 'pivot'. Chords can look complicated, but often anchoring your forefinger on the middle string of a chord allows you to pivot your thumb (higher on the melody string) to your ring finger (lower on the melody string):

