

Margaret's Waltz

Pat Shuldham-Shaw

The musical score for "Margaret's Waltz" is presented in six staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature of one flat. The melody line is in treble clef, and the bass line is in bass clef. The time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and triplets. Chords are indicated by letters C, F, G7, Am, and Dm below the bass line.

Staff 1: C, C, F, G7

Staff 2: C, C, G7, C

Staff 3: C, F, F, G7

Staff 4: C, Am, Dm, G7

Staff 5: C, F, C, G7

Staff 6: C, Am, G7, C

New York fiddler Jay Ungar is quoted in Matthiesen's *Waltz Book* (1992) as having taught the melody, popular at New England contra dances for years, to Shetland fiddler Aly Bain, though at the time he was unaware of its origins (Ungar himself learned it from New York hammered dulcimer player Bill Spence). Bain took the tune back to Scotland and fancied it the kind of melody his friend Pat (Shuldham-)Shaw would enjoy hearing. After dinner one night in Bain's Sylvan Place, Edinburgh, flat, the instruments came out and Bain played his 'new' waltz, asking Shaw what he thought. Shaw, the story goes, dryly replied that yes, indeed, he did like the tune—because as a matter of fact, he'd composed it.