

THE LOVERS' WALTZ

1985

Molly Mason & Jay Ungar

The musical score for "The Lovers' Waltz" is written in 3/4 time and the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of eight staves of music. The chord markings above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: I D, IV G, I D
- Staff 2: I D, IV G, I D, IV A7
- Staff 3: II Em, IV G, I D
- Staff 4: II G, II Em, I A, I D
- Staff 5: II 7 Em7, I 7/III D/F#, IV G, I D
- Staff 6: II Bm, II Em, IV A7, IV G, A
- Staff 7: VI Bm, IV G, I(IV) A7, D(G) D
- Staff 8: (continuation of Staff 7)

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"Molly and I wrote this tune in 1985, when we were first together. It was kind of a spontaneous composition -- where I started playing melody and she played chords, and both the chords and melody evolved as we played it. We'd played it at home together. But it was too personal to play for other people -- I felt the same way about *Ashokan Farewell* at first. You know, you're not sure if people will even like it. Eventually, we played it at a late night waltz session at Ashokan. It seemed like the right moment for the tune to emerge. We originally wrote it in the key of G. But the melody only uses three strings on the fiddle, and in G you never touch the E string. Usually, if a tune uses only three strings, I go for the higher strings. So that's why it's notated here in D. Sometimes we play it in both G and D, to get the full range. The other thing I do, if I'm playing it in G, is play the B part an octave higher the second time through, to get a different sonority."

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