

AND THE CAT CAME BACK

from Doc Roberts

4

9

12

17

Source: Greg Canote, "Dogs in the Dishes"

This transcription of “And The Cat Came Back” is from the playing of Greg Canote on the Canote Brothers’ album “Dogs in the Dishes”. The tune comes from a 1927 recording of Doc Roberts¹, although on that recording he mostly plays the B part once each time around, not twice.

Harry S. Miller published a song named “The Cat Came Back” in 1893 which Fiddlin’ John Carson recorded a version of in 1924². That song has two parts, one of which is similar to the “A” part of this tune, so it’s reasonable to assume that Doc Roberts had heard the popular song and was probably referencing it in his version, but if there’s any similarity between the other parts of Roberts’ tune and Miller’s song, I’m not hearing it. The song itself has mutated quite a bit over the years as well; the melody used on *The Muppet Show* is completely different from the melody I learned at summer camp, and both are significantly different from the original sheet music.

R. P. Christeson, in his 1973 *The Old-Time Fiddler’s Repertory*, wrote that this tune was “[p]layed by a few Missouri fiddlers in the depression days of the early 1930’s, but it is seldom heard any more.” It’s still not a particularly common tune, at least in my experience—I don’t think I’ve played it at a jam without being the person who called it. Maybe featuring it here will help change that.

¹<https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/and-cat-came-back>

²<https://youtu.be/3SA500acXpk>