

Purple Lilies Polka

(Traditional Gu-Aci tune * - music transcription and commentary from Pete Showman)

A D A

1. D

2. D

B A D

A D

G A

D

* An example of Tohono O'odham Fiddle Music as played by the Gu-Achi Fiddlers. This tune and several others have become popular with many old-time fiddlers. A web search for Gu-Achi fiddlers will turn up several recordings of the music. The Tohono O'odham are native Americans living near Tucson, Arizona. According to a University of Arizona publication (msw.arizona.edu/content/tohono-oodham-fiddle-music), "O'odham fiddle music was a result of the arrival and influence of European missionaries, which began in 1539." [...] "The Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries taught their European instruments to the Tohono O'odham communities so they could play music for Catholic masses and other Church occasions. ... It is believed that the American 49'ers traveled through the San Xavier community. This is probably where the Tohono O'odham learned the polka, mazurka, waltz and schottische dance music." The music was played for several types of dances, typically on two fiddles with guitar and drum accompaniment. Many of the tunes evolved, and are now what we would call "crooked", meaning they have extra or missing measures or half-measures here and there, compared to the original tunes, or to most tunes in these styles.