

# Purple Lilies Polka

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

The musical score for "Purple Lilies Polka" is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It is divided into two main sections, A and B.

**Section A:** The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a common time signature. It features a series of eighth and quarter notes. A first ending bracket spans the final two measures, which end with a double bar line. A second ending bracket spans the first two measures of the second staff, which concludes with a double bar line.

**Section B:** This section begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. It consists of three staves of music, primarily using half and quarter notes with various phrasing slurs. The key signature remains two sharps.

\* 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](http://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.