

# LIZA JANE

Old-Time; Bluegrass; Western Swing; Breakdown; **DATE:** Late 1800's **OTHER NAMES:** "Lasses Cane," "It's Goodbye Liza Jane," "Tumblin' Creek Liza Jane," "Liza Jane," "Susan Jane," "Saro Jane" (Should not be confused with "Rock About My Saro Jane," or "L'il Liza Jane"-different songs); "Goodbye Liza Jane;" "Little Saro Jane" "My Little Dony;" "I Lost My Liza Jane." **RECORDING INFO:** The first influential recording was by the East Tennessee string band, The Hill Billies, who released it under the title "Mountaineer's Love Song" and the second was by another band from the same area, the Tenneva Ramblers, as "Miss Liza, Poor Gal." Bob Wills (Texas), the father of western swing, said this was the first tune he learned (as "Goodbye, Miss Liza Jane") to fiddle. **NOTES:** "Liza Jane/Goodbye Liza Jane" is part of the large family of songs cross referenced to other tunes including "Molly and Tenbrooks," and "Pig in a Pen." The "Liza Jane" lyrics are also sung to different tunes such as "Git Along Home Cindy." The name and lyrics appear in a variety of other songs including "Run Mollie Run" (lyrics) "Push Boat" (lyrics) "Cindy" (floating lyrics) "Old Joe Clark" (lyrics). The "Little Liza Jane" or "L'il Liza Jane" songs composed by Countess Ada de Lachau in 1916 are not part of the "Liza Jane" song family and are frequently confused with "Liza Jane" songs. From the Library of Congress: "In short, the tune is cut of a cloth so common in the Upper South, and in musical domains touched by the influence of the Upper South, that it could be described as a paradigmatic Southern tune, appearing in so many related versions, allied forms and modified guises that it almost defies genetic tracing." Eddie Cox, a minstrel show performer, published "Good-bye, Liza Jane" in the 1880's. He didn't claim any credit for writing it, just arranging it. In 1903 the Tin Pan Alley composer, Harry von Tilzer, published "Good-Bye, Eliza Jane" which was a different song altogether. Charlie Poole did a cover of the Tilzer version leading some to assume that it was a folk version. In 1917 Cecil Sharp collected "Liza Anne" in Kentucky that also seems to blend "Liza Jane" and the "Possum Up a Gum Stump."

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics: "I'll go up on the moun - tain top, And plant me a patch of cane, I'll make me a jug of mo - las - ses, For to sweet-en lit - tle Li - za Jane." The third staff is labeled "Chorus" and contains the lyrics: "O po' Li - za, po' gal, O po' Li - za Jane,". The fourth staff continues the chorus with the lyrics: "O po' Li - za, po' gal, She died on the train." Chords are indicated above the notes: C, Am, C, Am, C, G7, C, C, Am, Dm, C, F, G7, C.

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<p><b>C</b> <b>Am</b> I'm goin' up on the mountain top, <b>C</b> <b>Am</b> To plant me a patch of cane, <b>C</b> <b>Am</b> I'll make me a jug of molasses, <b>C</b> <b>G7 Am</b> For to sweeten little Liza Jane. <b>C</b> <b>Chorus:</b> O po' Liza, po' gal, <b>Am</b> O po' Liza Jane, <b>Dm C</b> O po' Liza, po' gal, <b>F G C</b> She died on the train.</p>	<p>When I go a-courtin', I'll go on the train. When I go to marry, I'll marry Liza Jane. The hardest work I ever did, Was a-brakin' on a train; The easiest work I ever did, Was a-huggin' Liza Jane. When I went to see her, She wrung her hands and cried; She swore I was the ugliest thing,</p>	<p>That ever lived or died. I ask little Liza to marry me- What do you reckon she said? Said she would not marry me, If everybody else was dead. Old corn likker's done made, Still's tore out an' gone. What will pore little Liza do, When I'm took off an' gone? Don't you weep, my darling, Don't you weep nor cry; I'll be back to see you In the long old by-and-by.</p>
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