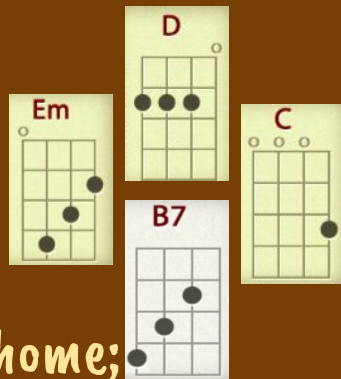


The Cat Came Back by Harry S Miller 1893

became a traditional American folk song

recorded by Charles Marsh 1894 and by John Carson 1923 and by Fred Penner 1978

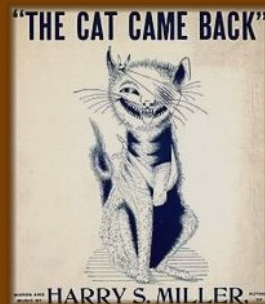


FIRST VERSE

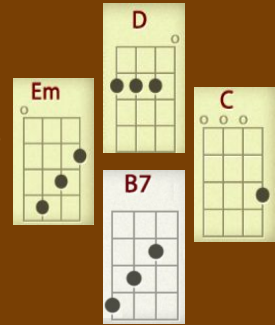
Now [Em] Old Mister [D] Johnson had [C] troubles of his [B7] own.
He had an [Em] old yellow [D] cat which [C] wouldn't leave its [B7] home;
He [Em] tried and he [D] tried to [C] give the cat a [B7] way,
He [Em] gave it to a [D] man going [C] far, far a [B7] way.



CHORUS: But, the [Em] cat came [D] back the [C] very next [B7] day,
Yes, the [Em] cat came [D] back, we [C] thought he was a [B7] goner
But the [Em] cat came [D] back; it [C] just couldn't [B7] stay
A [Em] way, [D] no, [C] no, [B7] no, [Em] . . . [D] no, [C] no, uh [B7] oh.



He [Em] gave it to a [D] man going [C] up in a bal[B7]loon,
Mr. [Em] Johnson said to [D] take it to the [C] man in the [B7] moon;
The bal[Em]loon came [D] down about [C] ninety miles a[B7]way,
Where [Em] the man is [D] now, well I [C] dare not [B7] say.



The [Em] man around the [D] corner swore he'd [C] kill the cat on [B7] sight,
He [Em] loaded up his [D] shotgun with [C] nails and dyna[B7]mite;
He [Em] waited and he [D] waited for the [C] cat to come a[B7]round,
[Em] Ninety-seven [D] pieces of the [C] man is all they [B7] found.



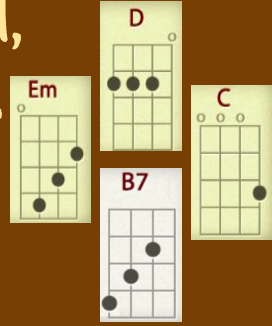
CHORUS: But, the [Em] cat came [D] back the [C] very next [B7] day,
Yes, the [Em] cat came [D] back, we [C] thought he was a [B7] goner
But the [Em] cat came [D] back; it [C] just couldn't [B7] stay
A[Em]way, [D] . . . [C] no, [B7] no, [Em] . . . [D] no, [C] no, uh [B7] oh.



He [Em] gave it to a [D] man going [C] way out [B7] West,
Mr. [Em] Johnson said to [D] take it to the [C] one he loved the [B7] best;
First the [Em] train hit the [D] curve, then it [C] jumped the [B7] rail,
Not a [Em] soul was left be[D]hind to tell the [C] gruesome [B7] tale.



The [Em] cat was a pos[D]sessor of a [C] family of its [B7] own,
With [Em] seven little [D] kittens till there [C] came a cy[B7]clone;
Blew the [Em] houses all a[D]part and [C] tossed the cat a[B7]round,
The [Em] air was full of [D] kittens, and not a [C] one was ever [B7] found.

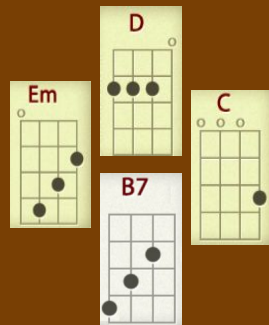


CHORUS: But, the [Em] cat came [D] back the [C] very next [B7] day,
Yes, the [Em] cat came [D] back, we [C] thought he was a [B7] goner
But the [Em] cat came [D] back; it [C] just couldn't [B7] stay
A[Em]way, [D] . . . [C] . . . [B7] no, [Em] . . . [D] . . . [C] no, uh [B7] oh.



THE LAST VERSE!

A [Em] way across the [D] ocean they did [C] send the cat at [B7] last,
The [Em] vessel only [D] out a day and [C] making water [B7] fast;
[Em] People all be [D] gan to pray, the [C] boat began to [B7] toss,
A [Em] great big gust of [D] wind came by and [C] every soul was [B7] lost.



CHORUS: But, the [Em] cat came [D] back the [C] very next [B7] day,
Yes, the [Em] cat came [D] back, we [C] thought he was a [B7] goner
But the [Em] cat came [D] back; it [C] just couldn't [B7] stay
A [Em] way, [D] no, [C] no, [B7] no, [Em] . . . [D] no, [C] no, [B7] no [Em] way.

