

The Cat Clumb Up the Plum Tree

Sparrow in the Treetop
Jack Clumb Up the Plum Tree

Schottische Tempo
"With Bucolic Idiocy"

Traditional American
Various Titles

"Cat Clumb Up the Plum Tree" is a Schottische of many titles. In the Ford collections and in Howe's Violin it was called "Rochester Schottische". In the Bayard collection it is "What the Devil Ails You". With the two additional titles at the top of the page, you have an explanation of why the cat clumb up the plum tree - to get the sparrow. And Jack obviously clumb up the plum tree to get the cat.

It can obviously be used when you need a schottische, but it can also be used for a cakewalk or for a children's party game of musical chairs. In the two latter cases, vary the tempo to confuse the walkers and sitters. You can also draw out the third beat in the first two bars of each of the A and B parts to falsely suggest that you are going to stop.