Redd Stewart and Pee Wee King of the Golden West Cowboys wrote “Tennessee Waltz” during the winter of 1946, in the back of a truck while traveling to a show in Nashville, TN. The song tells the story of a sweetheart who loses their beloved to a friend at a dance. “Tennessee Waltz” rose to fame as a country hit for Patti Page in 1950 but was soon a crossover success for numerous other artists, including Sam Cooke, The Chieftains, and Otis Redding. In addition to its national and international commercial success, “Tennessee Waltz” is played by many college marching bands, from North Carolina’s Appalachian State University to Texas’s Baylor University. The State of Tennessee adopted “Tennessee Waltz” as a state song in 1965.

I was waltzing with my darlin’ to the Tennessee Waltz
When an old friend I happened to see.
I introduced her to my loved one and while they were waltzing,
My friend stole my sweetheart from me.

I remember the night and the Tennessee Waltz,
Now I know just how much I have lost
Yes, I lost my little darlin’ the night they were playin’
The beautiful Tennessee Waltz.

I was waltzing with my darlin’ to the Tennessee Waltz
When an old friend I happened to see.
I introduced her to my loved one and while they were waltzing,
My friend stole my sweetheart from me.

I remember the night and the Tennessee Waltz,
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Yes, I lost my little darlin’ the night they were playin’
The beautiful Tennessee Waltz.
Tennessee Waltz
Words and Music by
Pee Wee King and
Redd Stewart
1946

Country Waltz  \( \frac{3}{4} \)

SATB

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

I was waltzing with my darlin' to the Tennessee Waltz

Pno.
Tennessee Waltz

S

A

T

B

Pno.

G

C

S

A

T

B

Pno.
Tennessee Waltz

while they were waltzing,

while they were waltzing, my friend stole my sweet-heart from

while they were waltzing,

I remember the night and the

I remember the night and the

I remember the night and the

I remember the night and the

C7

F

C

G

E7

C

E7

C

E7

C

E7
Tennessee Waltz

F          C

Tennessee waltz,

Tennessee waltz,

Tennessee waltz,

Tennessee waltz,

Now I know just how much I have

Lost my little darlin' the

Lost my little darlin' the

Lost my little darlin' the

The

The

The

Yes I lost my little darlin'

Yes I lost my little darlin'

Yes I lost my little darlin'

Pno.

Pno.
Tennessee Waltz

night they were play in

night they were play in the beau ti ful Ten nes see

night they were play in

night they were play in

I was waltz ing with my dar lin to the
Tennessee Waltz

S

Ten - nes - see waltz,

old

friend

I

A

Ten - nes - see waltz,

old

friend

I

T

Ten - nes - see when an old friend I hap - pened to

B

Pno.

Tennessee Waltz

S

see.

Oo

and

A

see.

I in - tro - duced her to my loved one and

T

see.

Oo

to my loved one and

B

see.

and

Pno.
Tennessee Waltz

while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,
while they were waltzing,

my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from
my friend stole my sweet-heart from

me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.
me.

I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the
I remember the night and the

C7 F C G7
Tennessee Waltz

8

F          C

S          Oo

T          Oo

B          Oo

Pno.

G          C

S          the

A          the

T          the

B          the

Pno.
night they were play-in

night they were play-in the beau-ti-ful Ten-nes-see

night they were play-in

night they were play-in

Tennessee Waltz
Tennessee waltz,

when an old friend I happened to

Tennessee waltz,

and

see____

Introduced her to my loved one and

and

and
while they were waltzing,

while they were waltzing, my friend stole my sweetheart from me.

while they were waltzing,

I remember the night and the
\begin{align*}
\text{S I} &: \quad C \quad G \\
\text{S II} &: \quad \text{Tennessee waltz,} \quad \text{Oo} \\
\text{A} &: \quad \text{Tennessee waltz,} \quad \text{Now I know just how much I have} \\
\text{Pno.} &: \quad \text{waltz,}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{S I} &: \quad \text{D} \quad D7 \quad G \\
\text{S II} &: \quad \text{lost} \quad \text{Yes I lost my little darlin} \\
\text{A} &: \quad \text{Yes I lost my little darlin} \\
\text{Pno.} &: \quad \text{the}
\end{align*}
night they were play-in

night they were play-in

I was waltzing with my darlin’

night they were play-in

waltz.
S I

G7

Ten-nes-see waltz, old friend I

S II

C

Ten-nes-see waltz when an old friend I hap-pened to

A

G7

Ten-nes-see waltz, old friend I

Pno.

D

see.

D7

to my loved one and

G

see

D

In-tro-duced her to my loved one and

S II

D

see

D7

Oo

G

and

Pno.
while they were waltzing,

while they were waltzing, my friend stole my sweet-heart from

while they were waltzing,

I re-mem-ber the night and the

me.

I re-mem-ber the night and the

I re-mem-ber the night and the
Tennessee waltz, now I know just how much I have lost.

Yes I lost my little darlin' the

Yes I lost my little darlin' the
night they were play-in

night they were play-in the beau-ti-ful Ten-nes-see

night they were play-in

waltz

rit.