

# Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight!

1886 Music by Joe Hayden Lyrics by Theo. A. Metz

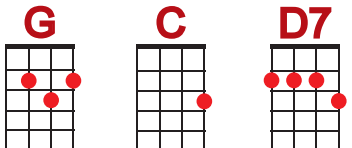
<sup>G</sup> When you hear that the <sup>C</sup> preaching does <sup>G</sup> begin,  
<sup>G</sup> Bend down low, for to <sup>C</sup> drive away your <sup>G</sup> sin  
<sup>G</sup> And if you gets religion, you want to shout and sing  
<sup>D7</sup> There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight, my baby...

<sup>G</sup> Please oh please, oh do not let me fall,  
<sup>G</sup> You're all mine, and I love you best of all,  
*Please make a gender choice here*

And you must be my <sup>C</sup> **man** <sup>G</sup> **girl**, or I'll have no <sup>C</sup> **man** <sup>G</sup> **girl** at all,  
<sup>D7</sup> There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight, my baby...  
*and again here (can be different!)*

<sup>G</sup> When you hear the bells go ding - a - ling  
<sup>G</sup> All join 'round, and sweetly you must sing  
<sup>G</sup> And when the verse is through, in the chorus all join in  
<sup>D7</sup> There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight!

<sup>D7</sup> Oh yeah... <sup>G</sup> a hot time in the old town tonight!



There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight was a great favorite during the Spanish-American War in 1898, although it had actually been written twelve years earlier by Theodore Metz, band leader of the McIntyre and Heath Minstrels. Metz was inspired to write it when he saw a group of children putting out a fire in Old Town, Louisiana. The McIntyre and Heath Minstrels used it as a march for its street parades but it didn't catch on until Joe Hayden wrote some appropriate (ie non-racist) words for it and Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders adopted it as their personal anthem in Cuba. Jelly Roll Morton recalls it as one of the favorites of the little string groups in New Orleans which played at parties. It came into recorded jazz when Bessie Smith sang it on March 2, 1927, backed by a contingent from Fletcher Henderson's band.