

Bob Wills the King of Western Swing

From <https://www.countrythangdaily.com/bob-wills-songs/>

In the 1930s, a handful of songs blending blues, jazz, and big-band swing sprang up like mushrooms – but nothing compared to Bob Wills songs. After all, he's the most popular and influential among all the Western swing band leaders, hailed as the King of Western Swing.

Born in rural west Texas, James Robert Wills started playing the fiddle at dances as young as ten years old. But to make ends meet, Wills had to work as a farmer, construction worker, barber, among others. But in 1931, he found his calling when he joined the Light Crust Doughboys band.

Later on, Wills moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he and his Texas Playboys' brand of country music made history. Over the years, Wills wrote songs that have become enduring classics in the genre. And today, we're going to dig a little deeper into some of them. Keep on scrolling below to some of the greatest hits of Bob Wills.

1. **New San Antonio Rose** — This is perhaps the biggest recording of Wills that brought his career to stardom, hailing him as the King of Western Swing. "New San Antonio Rose" grabbed the attention of the bigwigs at the New York music publishing company, including Irving Berlin, who published the song and brought it to a wider audience. Wills also cobbled together some words with the help of his band to give this instrumental fiddle number some lyrics.
2. **Sugar Moon** — "Sugar Moon" is perhaps one of the most successful tracks of Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys, reaching No. 1 on the country chart and remaining on the sport for six incredible weeks. Several notable artists covered the song, including k.d. lang, Asleep at the Wheel, and Willie Nelson.
3. **Take Me Back to Tulsa** — "Sugar Moon" is perhaps one of the most successful tracks of Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys, reaching No. 1 on the country chart and remaining on the sport for six incredible weeks. Several notable artists covered the song, including k.d. lang, Asleep at the Wheel, and Willie Nelson
4. **Stay a Little Longer** — Wills wrote this Western swing dance song with Tommy Duncan, which stands out due to several unrelated verses – like one verse that came from an old folk song, "Shinbone Alley." The song was also recorded by Willie Nelson and Mel Tillis.
5. **Time Changes Everything** — Here's another song written by Duncan, which tells the story of a failed relationship and of the pain that has eventually healed as time goes. It was released by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys in 1940, becoming one of the top singles that year. Two decades later, The Playboys recorded another version which was released on several labels. Since then, the song has been recorded several times by popular country artists such as George Jones, Ray Price, and Merle Haggard.
6. **Faded Love** — Written by Wills' father John Wills and his brother Billy Jack Wills, "Faded Love" is a sappy song about lost love. Its title came from its refrain that goes, "I remember our faded love." Not only did it become a major hit for Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys as it peaked at No. 8 on Billboard's Country charts, it was also considered as an exemplar of the Western swing fiddle.
7. **Miss Molly** — First recording and first release by Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys July 14, 1942.
8. **Home in San Antone**
9. **I Can't Go On This Way**
10. **Bring it on Down to My House, Honey**

Large collection of Bob Wills' song lyrics - <https://www.classic-country-song-lyrics.com/bobwillssonglyrics.html>

San Antonio Rose

Bob Wills 1940

Intro: [C] [C7] [F] [D7] [G7] [C] [G7]↓

Deep with-[C]in my [C7] heart lies a [F] mel-o-[D7]dy
A [G7] song of old San An-[C]tone - - [G7]↓
Where in [C] dreams I [C7] live with a [F] mem-o-[D7]ry
Be-[G7]neath the stars all a-[C]lone - -
It was there I found [C7] be-[F]side the Ala-[D7]mo
En-[G7]chantment strange as the [C] blue up above
A moonlit [C7] pass that [F] only she would [D7] know
Still [G7] hears my broken song of [C] love - - - -

[G] Moon in all your splendor know [D7] only my heart
- Call back my Rose, Rose of [G] San Antone
Lips so sweet and tender like [D7] petals falling apart
- Speak once again of my [G] love my [G7] own

[C] Broken [C7] song empty [F] words I [D7] know
Still [G7] live in my heart all a-[C]lone - - [G7]↓
For that [C] moonlit [C7] pass by the [F] Ala-[D7]mo
And [G7] Rose my Rose of San An-[C]tone - - - -

[G] Moon in all your splendor know [D7] only my heart
- Call back my Rose, Rose of [G] San Antone
Lips so sweet and tender like [D7] petals falling apart
- Speak once again of my [G] love my [G7] own

[C] Broken [C7] song empty [F] words I [D7] know
Still [G7] live in my heart all a-[C]lone - - [G7]↓
For that [C] moonlit [C7] pass by the [F] Ala-[D7]mo
And [G7] Rose my Rose of San An-[C]tone [G7] [C]

Video - Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys - www.youtube.com/watch?v=0C08jmN1sM8

Sugar Moon

Bob Wills & Cindy Walker 1947

Intro: [F] [G7] [C7] [F] [C7]↓

When it's sugarcane [F] time - long around about [G7] June
I'll be walkin' with [C7] Sugar - 'neath the old sugar [F] moon [C7]↓

Gonna drop her a [F] line - to expect me [G7] soon
Say I'm cravin' some [C7] sugar - 'neath the old sugar [F] moon [F7]↓

I can see her right [Bb] now she'll get the calendar [F] down
Scratch a circle a-[G7]round the day we're altar [C7] bound [C7]↓

When it's sugarcane [F] time - long around about [G7] June
Wedding bells will be [C7] chiming - 'neath the old sugar [F] moon [C7]↓

When the sugar moon [F] shines - long around about [G7] June
I'll be walkin' with [C7] Sugar - 'neath the old sugar [F] moon [C7]↓

All the kisses I've [F] missed - I'll be gettin' 'em [G7] soon
Sugar kisses from [C7] Sugar - 'neath the old sugar [F] moon [F7]↓

I'm- a dreamin' sweet [Bb] dreams of all the lovin' I'll [F] get
I get back to my [G7] pet oh Lordy how I'll [C7] fret [C7]↓

'Til it's sugarcane [F] time - all around about [G7] June
I'll be walkin' with [C7] Sugar - 'neath the old sugar [F] moon [G7]↓
Walkin' with [C7] Sugar - 'neath the old sugar [F] moon [C7] [F]

Video – Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys - www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfBiKQj2Px0

Take Me Back to Tulsa

Bob Wills & Tommy Duncan 1940

Chorus [C] Take me back to Tulsa
I'm too young to [G7] marry
Take me back to Tulsa
I'm too young to [C] marry

[C] Where's that gal with the red dress on some folks call her [G7] Dinah
Stole my heart away from me way down in Looz-[C]iana

Chorus

[C] Little bee sucks the blossom - big bee gets the [G7] honey
Poor man picks the cotton - rich man gets the [C] money

Chorus

[C] Walk and talk with Susie walk and talk with [G7] Susie
Walk and talk with Susie walk and talk with [C] Susie

Chorus

[C] We always wear a great big smile never do act [G7] sour
Travel all over the country - playing by the [C] hour

Chorus [C] Take me back to Tulsa
I'm too young to [G7] marry
Take me back to Tulsa
I'm too young to [C] marry

[C] Take me back to Tulsa
I'm too young to [G7] marry
Take me back to Tulsa
I'm – too – young – to – wed - [C] thee.

Video - Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys - www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsHtVWaSlxw

Stay a Little Longer

Bob Wills & Tommy Duncan 1945

Intro: [G] [C] [G] [D7] [G] [C] [G] [D7] (4 beats each)

[G] You ought to see my blue-eyed Sally
She lives way down on [D7] Shinbone [G] Alley
Number on the gate the number on the door
The next house over is the [D7] grocery [G] store

Chorus [G] Stay all night stay a little longer
[D7] Dance all night dance a little longer
[G] Pull off your coat throw it in the corner
[D7] Don't see why you can't stay a little [G] longer.

[G] Can't go home if you're going by the mill
Cause the bridge washed out at the [D7] bottom of the [G] hill
Big creek's up little creek's level
Plow my corn with a [D7] double [G] shovel

Chorus

[G] Sitting in the window singing to my love
Slop bucket fell from the [D7] window up [G] above
Mule and the grasshopper eatin' ice cream
Mule got sick so they [D7] laid him on the [G] beam

Chorus

[G] Grab your partner pat her on the head
If she don't like biscuits [D7] feed her corn[G]bread
Girls around big creek that I have known
Jump on a biscuit like a [D7] dog on a [G] bone

Chorus

Video-Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys- www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEW6OAZ85UA

Time Changes Everything

Tommy Duncan 1940

[G] There was a time when I thought of no [D] other
And we sang our [D7] own loves re-[G]frain
And our [G7] hearts beat as one as [C] we had our fun
But [G] time changes [D] every-[G]thing

[G] When you left me my poor heart was [D] broken
Our romance [D7] seemed all in [G] vain
The [G7] dark clouds are gone and there's [C] blue skies again
Yes [G] time changes [D] every-[G]thing

[G] The time has passed and I have for-[D]got you
Mother Nature does [D7] wonderful [G] things
I guess it's [G7] true for [C] me and for you
Cause [G] time changes [D] every-[G]thing

[G] You can change the name of an [D] old song
Rearrange it and [D7] make it [G] swing
I thought [G7] nothing could stop me from [C] loving you
But [G] time changes [D] every-[G]thing

[G] Good luck to you may God [D] bless you
I can't say I [D7] won't love a-[G]gain
You've gone your [G7] way and now [C] I'll go mine
Cause [G] time has changed [D] every-[G]thing [D7] [G]

Video - Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys - www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkxI6iahYP4

Faded Love

Bob Wills & John Wills 1950

[A7] As I [D] look at the [D7] letters that [G] you wrote to me

It's [D] you - that I am thinking [A7] of - -

As I [D] read - the [D7] lines that to [G] me were so sweet

I re-[D]member our [A7] faded [D] love - -

I miss you darling more and [G] more every day

As [D] heaven would miss the stars [A7] above - -

With [D] every heartbeat I still [G] think of you

And re-[D]member our [A7] faded [D] love - -

[A7] As I [D] think of the [D7] past and all the [G] pleasures we had

As I [D] watch the mating of the [A7] dove -

It was [D] in - the [D7] springtime that [G] you said goodbye

I re-[D]member our [A7] faded [D] love - -

I miss you darling more and [G] more every day

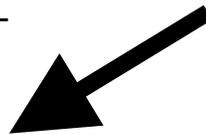
As [D] heaven would miss the stars [A7] above - -

With [D] every heartbeat I still [G] think of you

And re-[D]member our [A7] faded [D] love [Fdim]

And re-[D]member our [A7] faded [D7] love [G] [Gm] [D]

Fdim = 1212



Video - Bob Wills and The Texas Playboys - www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPNm0fYA-3w

Miss Molly

Cindy Walker 1943

Now [C] have you seen Miss [G7] Molly her [C] cheeks are rosy [G7] red
Her [C] lips are soft as [F] satin and they [G7] taste like ginger-[C]bread

Chorus [C] Oh oh oh [F] me oh my Miss Molly
[C] I'm in love with [G7] you oh
[C] Me oh my Miss [F] Molly won't you
[G7] Say you love me [C] too

Now when Miss Molly's [G7] smiling the [C] sun is dim a [G7] spell
And [C] when she laughs her [F] voice is like a [G7] little silver [C] bell

Chorus

I'll trade my horse and [G7] saddle cow [C] driving I'll re-[G7]sign
If [C] only Miss [F] Molly will [G7] say that she'll be [C] mine

Chorus

Now listen dear Miss [G7] Molly I've [C] told you this be-[G7]fore
But [C] even though I [F] told you so I'll [G7] tell you just once [C] more

Chorus [C] Oh oh oh [F] me oh my Miss Molly
[C] I'm in love with [G7] you oh
[C] Me oh my Miss [F] Molly won't you
[G7] Say you love me [C] too

Video-Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys- www.youtube.com/watch?v=hR3k_lbUM9A

Home in San Antone

Fred Rose (aka Floyd Jenkins) 1943

[G] Haven't got a [G7] worry [C] haven't got a care

[G] Haven't got a thing to call my [D7] own - -

[G] Though I'm out of [G7] money [C] I'm a millionaire

[G] I still have my [D7] home in San [G] Antone [G7]

[C] When I greet my neighbor with a hi ya-all

I'm [G] wealthy as a king upon a [D7] throne - -

[G] You can have your [G7] mansion [C] or your cottage small

[G] I'll just take my [D7] home in San [G] Antone - -

[G] I've traveled o'er the [G7] country [C] on my merry way

[G] Been in crowds and felt I was [D7] alone - -

[G] When I feel like [G7] bragging [C] I just up and say

[G] I'm a native [D7] son of San [G] Antone [G7]

[C] There's a sweet somebody by the Alamo

Some-[G]day she's gonna be my very [D7] own

[G] Then we'll get a [G7] highchair [C] in a year or so

[G] For our little [D7] home in San [G] Antone

Video-Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys- www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzytomrZo3k

I Can't Go On This Way

Fred Rose 1946

[G] Moanin' low - moanin' high - hair is turnin' [D7] gray
[G] I don't care if I [C] live or die I [G] can't go [D7] on this [G] way
Woe is me - so is you - what a price to [D7] pay
[G] Tell me what I'm [C] gonna do I [G] can't go [D7] on this [G] way

[C] Every night I walk the floor [G] worried [C7] over [G] you
[C] All I do is watch the door [G] hopin' [C7] you'll come [D7] through
[G] Pacin' up - pacin' down - 'til the break of [D7] day
[G] I'm the saddest [C] soul in town I [G] can't go [D7] on this [G] way

Where are you - at tonight - while I wait and [D7] pray
[G] You know you ain't [C] doin' right [G] I can't go [D7] on this [G] way
Lonesome me - sad and blue - tryin' hard to [D7] say
[G] I'm so much in [C] love with you I [G] can't go [D7] on this [G] way

[C] You don't want me anymore [G] guess my [C7] love was [G] blind
[C] Never felt this way before [G] 'bout to [C7] lose my [D7] mind
[G] Moanin' low - moanin' high - hair is turnin' [D7] gray
[G] I don't care if I [C] live or die I [G] can't go [D7] on this [G] way

Video - Bob Wills & the Texas Playboys - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggAjr69kk84

Bring It On Down To My House

Bob Wills 1936

Chorus [C] Bring it on down to [A7] my house honey
There [D7] ain't nobody [G7] home but [C] me
Bring it on down to [A7] my house honey
I [D7] need your compa[G7]ny

[C]↓ Tom cat's sittin' on the [C7]↓ railroad track
[F]↓ Hollered at the Mama cat she [Cdim]↓ answered back

Chorus

[C]↓ My gal Sal - she [C7]↓ makes good pie
I [F]↓ eat so much I could [Cdim]↓ nearly die

Chorus [C] Bring it on down to [A7] my house honey
There [D7] ain't nobody [G7] home but [C] me
Bring it on down to my [A7] house honey
I [D7] need your compa[G7]ny

[C]↓ Say old man can you [C7]↓ play a fiddle
[F]↓ Yes by crackies I can [Cdim]↓ play a little

Chorus

[C]↓ Ski datten doh [C7]↓ beadady boppin bay
[F]↓ Ski datten ditten doh – [Cdim]↓ whoa

[C] Bring it on down to [A7] my house honey
There [D7] ain't nobody [G7] home but [C] me oh yeah
[retard] There [D7] aint' nobody [G7] home but [C] me [G7] [C]

Video - Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys - www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYat20AAC-U

