

## We Listen to Country

*[Included here at the request of my Aunt Hilda (Barth)'s family in Knoxville, Tennessee.]*

Feeling strange in New York City, on the subway of Manhattan,  
Wearing my best cowboy boots, with my Western hat on,  
I met a man playing classics for dimes on his violin,  
Couldn't help but stand there and say, "You're the best that's ever been."

"I studied in Belarus," said he. "That's near Russia, near the Baltic Sea."  
And I couldn't help but say, "I bet you don't play—Country."  
On his Stradivary he laid it down and the people gathered all around:  
"Blossom Special," "The Devil Went Down . . ." Charlie D—in New York Town.  
When he was done I took off my hat, asked where he learned to play like that.  
He winked at me, gathered his coins and he said:

**"In my country—we listen to Country.  
Yes, in my country—we listen to Country."**

I said, "Go to Tennessee. That's where Nashville is, you see.  
That is the place to be for people who love Country.  
I've heard the best and, by the way, I'm not joking when I say  
I haven't heard anyone play like you in a while.— They'd love you in Nashville."

On his Stradivary he laid it down and the people gathered all around.  
They came from all over New York Town cause—even in New York—they love it.—  
And the man from near the Baltic Sea and me just in from Tennessee  
Needed no high-flying diplomacy, all we needed was—Country.

**In our country—we listen to Country.  
Yes, in our country—we listen to Country.**

But that's not all:  
When I returned to Tennessee, I talked to my friend Liza Dee  
And she told me, "You haven't seen a thing.  
You've heard about them saucers, dear. Well, one of them has landed here,  
And little green men were all around, said, 'Finally we've found the home of Country.

We've come from far away, you see, to find Nashville, Tennessee,  
Cause—you've guessed it—even we on Mars—we love Country.'  
And on small green fiddles they laid it down— And the people gathered all around.  
You could hear them play all over town. You should have been here—we loved it—

**In our country—we listen to Country.  
Yes, in our country—we listen to Country.**