

Bar Mitzvah Waltz

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I was only thirteen but I still can recall
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
In a custom-made suit that was soon much too small
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
My whole class was there and no one had a date
We chose random partners and left things to fate
When the sweet table beckoned, we each filled our plate
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz.

The band started playing, and soon all began
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
Except Uncle Alec and Joe from Poznan
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
They argued in Yiddish for half of the night
One from the left side and one from the right
Till they reached an *entente*, ordered *schnapps*, and got tight
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz.

My *bobie* and *zeyda* kept time one-two-three
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
Mother and Dad tripped the light so carefree
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
Even the rabbi was out on the floor
He and the *rebbetzin* sure knew the score
They called "*Mazel tov!*" then sashayed out the door
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz.

We cha-cha'd and *hora*'d, we circled and swayed
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
But no matter what music the orchestra played
We were dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz
There were blessings and speeches and even some tears
But I think I can say after all of these years
The music still echoes so sweet in my ears
Dancing the *bar mitzvah* waltz.