

Nigel Gratherer's
TUNE of the WEEK



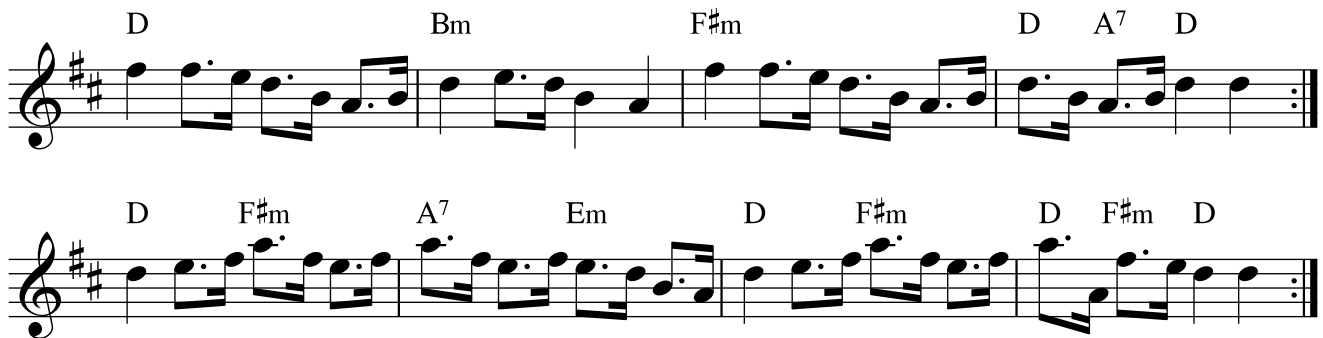
**VOLUME
ONE**

Standard Notation and Chords

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1: *Cenneag Mhor* (traditional)



I transcribed this tune from my record collection, from one of my favourite Scottish dance bands, Addie Harper's Wick SCD Band. I don't really know anything about the tune, but I like it. It's in a D pentatonic key, and fairly lilts along.

2: *Mo Chaillein Dileas Donn* (traditional)



I learned this slow air from a recording by the folk group Ossian from Glasgow. It's a fairly well known Gaelic song

3: *Johnny Murray of Lochee* (unknown)



I learned this tune from fiddler Clare McLaughlin of Deaf Shepherd. I think it's a variant of a bagpipe tune.

4: Ray's Classic (Willie Hunter)

Chords: A, D, A, Bm, Bm, A, D, A, Bm, E, A, A, D, Bm, E, C#, F#m, A, E, A

This is played in Ireland as "The Race Classic", and some assume it's a polka from the south of Ireland. However, it was composed by the Shetland fiddler Willie Hunter, and called "Ray's Classic" to commemorate a car. I have also heard it called "Roy's Session".

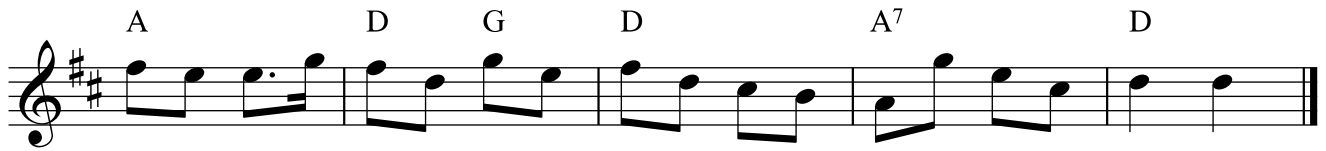
5: Joan's Jig (Henry Clough)

Chords: G, D, G, D7, G, Am, G, D, G, D, Em, D7, G, D7, G, G, F#m, G, D7, G, D7, G, D, G, D7, G, D7, G

This tune is from Northumbria and was composed by Henry Clough, father of the celebrated Northumbrian piper Tom Clough. I notated it from the playing of Kathryn Tickell.

6: Little Diamond (traditional)

Chords: D, D, D, Em, A7, D, D, A7, D, D, G, D, A7, D



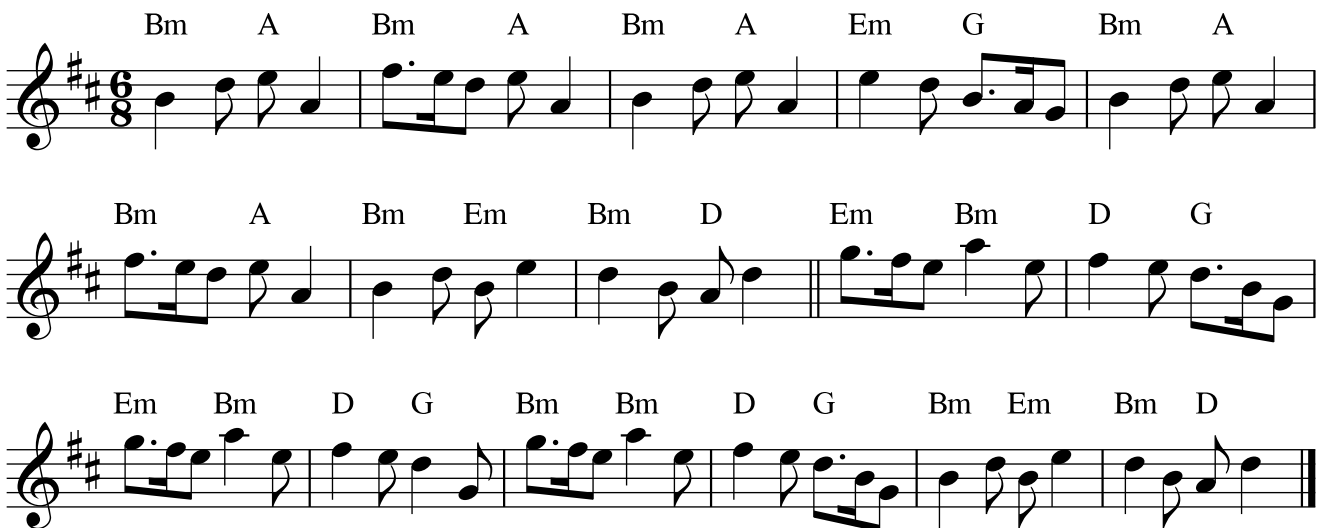
I learned this tune from ace fiddler Clare McLaughlin. It's an Irish polka, possibly from the Coleman era.

7: *Jenny Lind Polka* (traditional)



I first learned the Jenny Lind Polka from Alastair Anderson's wonderful album "Concertina Workshop" (1972). The tune was very popular at one time, and was named after a famous Swedish opera singer, who was also known as The Swedish Nightingale.

8: *Cro Cinn T-Saile* (traditional)



A lovely slow tune from the playing of Alison Kinnaird. The tune is also called "The Cattle Fold of Kintail", or "The Kintail Lullaby".

9: Cavehill (traditional)

Chords: G, G, Em, G, D⁷, G, G, Em, G, D⁷, G, Am, C, G, Em, G, D⁷, G.

"The Cave Hill dominates the skyline on the northern edge of Belfast..." I don't know anything about this tune. I got it from Kerr's Merry Melodies (c1875).

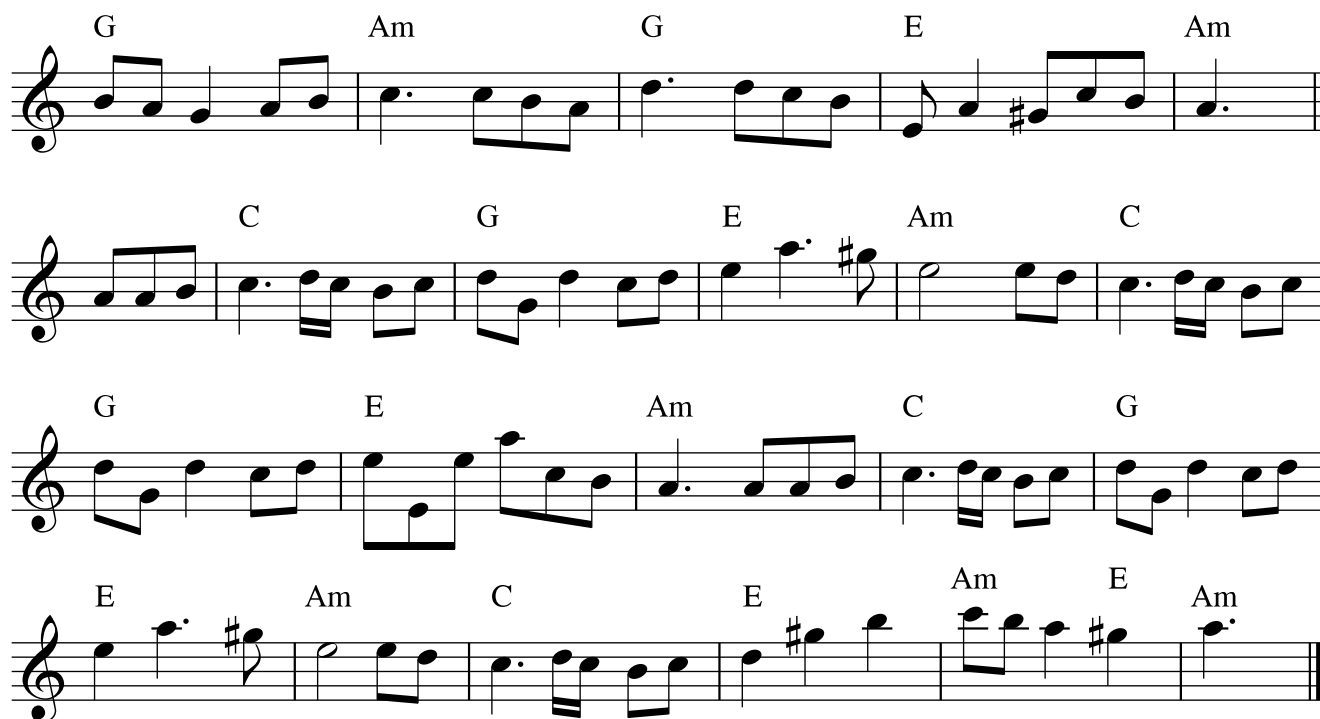
10: Banbury Bill (traditional)

Chords: D, G, A⁷, D, D, B^m, G, D, D, A, G, A⁷, D, D, G, A⁷, D.

I learned this English tune from a Dave Swarbrick record, and I've always liked it. I think it's a Morris dance tune.

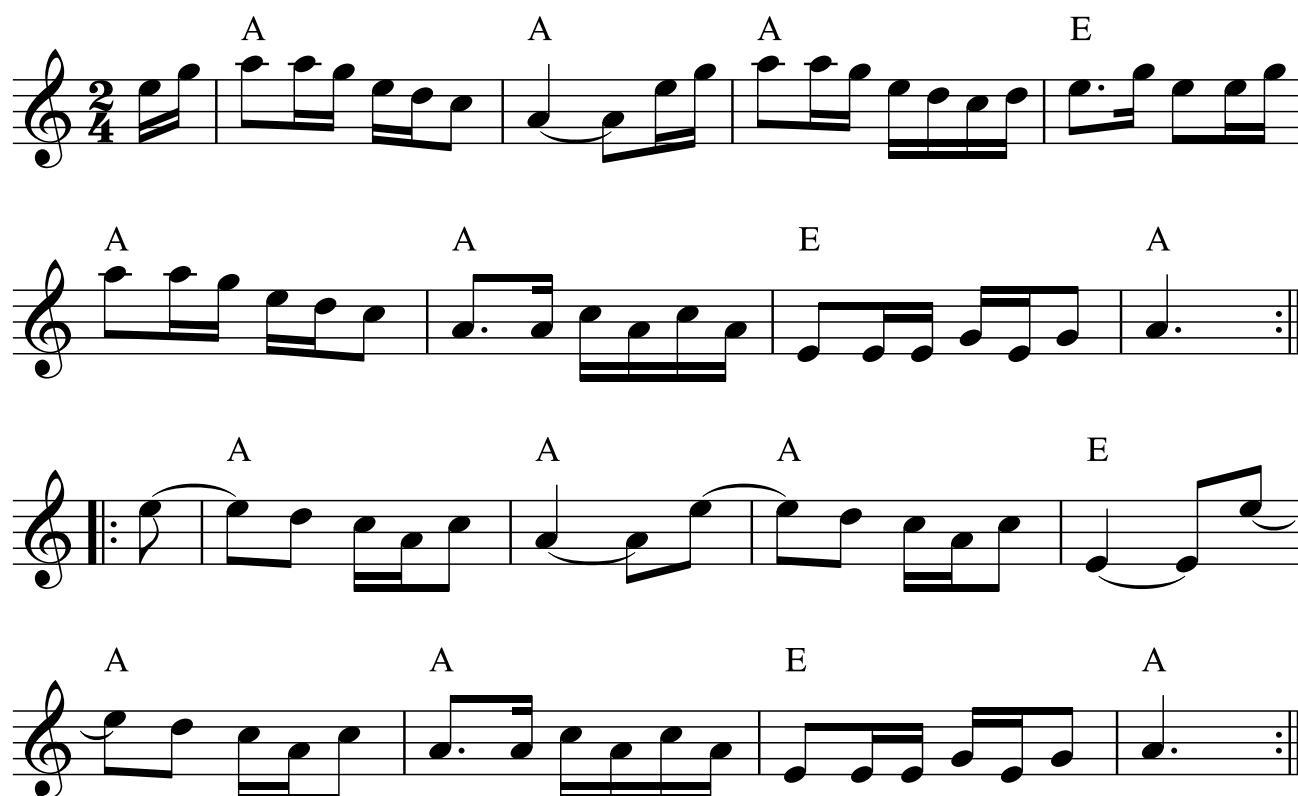
11: My Beautiful Mandolin Friend (Gatherer)

Chords: Am, E, Am, G, Am, G, Am, E, Am, E, Am.



Composed in honour of my friend, mandolinist extraordinaire Alison Stephens, who died in October 2010.

13: *Pretty Little Cat* (traditional)



This is an American Old-Time tune which I learned from a French musician called Cathy Castet. Recently she told me she'd got the name wrong, but I guess I'm stuck with this title.

12: Wi' My Dog and Gun (traditional)

1. Wi' my dog and gun, through the bloom-ing he a - ther,
 For _____ game and plea - sure I took my way_
 I _____ met a maid, she was tall and slen - der
 Her _____ eyes en-ticed me sometime to spare _____

2. I said "Fair maid, do you know I love you?
 Tell me your name and your dwelling also?"
 "Oh, excuse my name, but you'll find my dwelling
 By the mountain streams where the moorcocks crow."

3. I said "Fair maid, if you wed a fermer,
 You'll be tied for life tae one plot of land.
 I'm a rovin' Johnny, if you gang wi' me,
 You will have no ties, so gi' me your hand."

4. "Ah, but if my parents knew I loved a rover,
 It is that I'm sure would be my overthrow,
 So I'll stay at home for another season
 By the mountain streams where the moorcocks crow."

5. "So it's fare thee well, love; another season
 We will meet again in yon woodland vale,
 And I'll set you down all upon my knee, love,
 And I'll listen to your lovesick tale."

6. "And it's erm in erm we will go together
 Through the lofty trees, in the valley below,
 Where the linties sing their song sae sweetly
 By the mountain streams where the moorcocks crow."

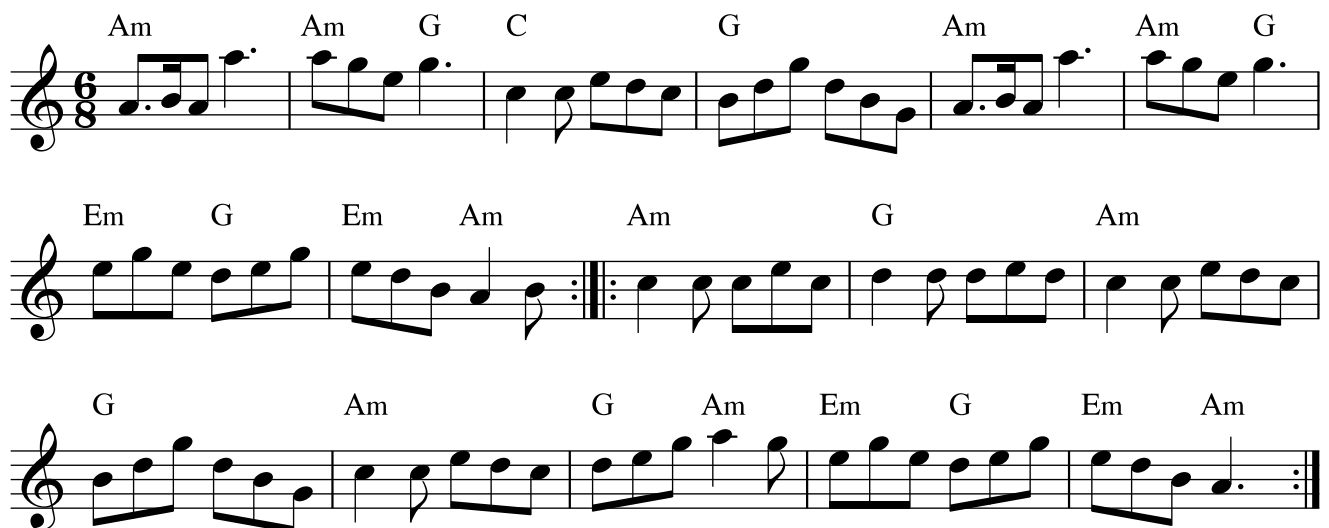
From the playing of the Edinburgh folk group Silly Wizard, from the 1970s.

14: *The Periwig* (traditional)



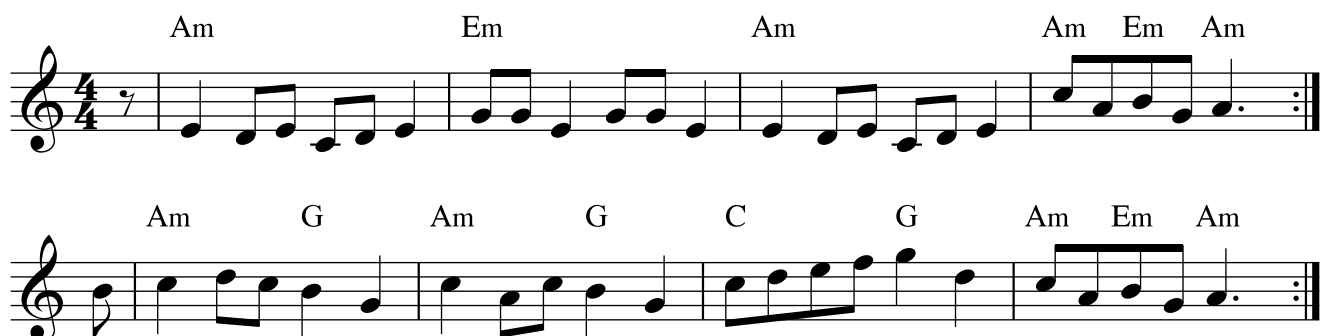
I first learned this tune from a recording of the folk group Ossian. It's an old Scottish reel first published in Capt Fraser's "Airs and Melodies Peculiar to the Highlands and Isles of Scotland" (1815), where an anecdote is told of a Mr Fraser of Culduthel who, in the company of a venerable old clergyman, couldn't resist teasing him by tickling him under his large wig with a blade of corn. The minister, imagining an earwig or a spider rush to the fire to shake his wig out; he lost hold of it and it fell in. Too fat to rescue it, it burned and almost suffocated the whole company. The "real" name of the tune is said to be "The Fry'd Periwig".

15: *Drummond Castle* (traditional)



This is a fine old Scottish jig. Note that you never play the F natural; this is a common feature in many tunes, and enables one to play in unusual keys on fixed-key instruments such as the whistle. This tune is a jig version of the Strathspey "Cutting Ferns". Drummond Castle is just outside Crieff in Perthshire.

16: *A Yow Cam to Wir Door Yarmen* (trad)



I got this tune from a Boys of the Lough recording. It's a traditional Shetland fiddle tune.

17: *The New Five Cents* (traditional)

D G D A⁷

D G D A⁷ D

D D D A⁷

D A⁷ G A D A⁷ D

D D D A⁷ D

D D D A⁷ D

D G D A⁷ D D A⁷ D

D D D A⁷ D

Learned from a recording of American mandolinist Don Grieser.

18a: *Hoch Hey Johnnie Lad* (traditional)

G D G D G D G D G

G D G C G D G D G

Inspired by a recording of the Irish group Lunasa. They called it *Jerry O'Sullivan's*. Its root is an old Scottish tune and song.

18b: Lord Drummond (traditional)

Chord progression: D Em F#m G D Bm A D

Chord progression: D D G A D Bm A A⁷

Learned from a recording of The Tannahill Weavers, this old Scottish reel can also be found, in a slightly different setting, in Kerr's Merry Melodies (c.1875).

19: Wistfulness at Wiston (Nigel Gatherer)

Chord progression: Dm A⁷ Dm C

Chord progression: F C Dm A⁷ Dm

Chord progression: A⁷ Dm C

Chord progression: F C Dm A⁷ Dm

In 2011 I took part in a mandolin weekend residential at Wiston Lodge, Lanarkshire. The theme for the weekend was the "La Folia" structure which has been used in classical music for centuries. Since it doesn't really feature in Scottish traditional music, I composed this piece, which follows the chord progression of the "later Folia".

20: *I Bhi Ada* (traditional)

A fairly well known tune, this is the air to a “port a beul”, a Gaelic song used for dancing. This version is from accordionist John Carmichael.



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*A selection of 21 tunes played and
discussed at 'The Gathering',
Nigel Gatherer's on-line forum.*