



Nigel Gratherer's
TUNE of the WEEK



**VOLUME
TWO**

Standard Notation and Chords

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21: Jas Soutar of Plains (Alex Deas)

Chords: D, Em, G, D, D, Em, 1. G, Em, D, A⁷, 2. G, A⁷, D, D, G, D, A⁷, D, A⁷, D, D.

I used to spend days at a time poring through manuscripts and books in the National Library in Edinburgh and the Mitchell Library in Glasgow - happy days. One book I loved was 'Kohler's Violin Repository', and this is one of the tunes I jotted down from that collection.

22: Swedish Schottische (traditional)

Chords: D, G, D, Em, G, D, D, G, D, Em, A⁷, D, A, Em, D, Bm, Em, A, G, D, A, Em, D, F[#]m, Em, A⁷, D, C, G, F, C, D⁷, G, C, G, F, C, D, G, G⁷.

I fell in love with this tune in the 1980s, and every so often it pops into my head and makes me happy; there is an inherent attractiveness about Swedish music which is hard to resist. I can't remember where I got it, but I suspect it's from a book in Edinburgh's Central Library Music Department, where I used to enjoy spending hours looking through dusty books.

23: *The Music o' Spey* (James Scott Skinner)

Chord symbols for *The Music o' Spey*:

Staff 1: A, D, A, F#m, E7

Staff 2: A, D, A, F#m, E7, A

Staff 3: D, E7, A, F#m, D, A, E7

Staff 4: A, D, A, F#m, E7, A

A beautiful composition by Scots fiddler Scott Skinner which has the alternative title "The Bonnie, Bonnie Banks o' Spey".

24: *Song for the Smallpipes* (Robt Mathieson)

Chord symbols for *Song for the Smallpipes*:

Staff 1: Bm, D, G, A7

Staff 2: Bm, D, G, D, A7

Staff 3: D, A7, D

Staff 4: G, A7, Bm

Staff 5: D, G, D, A7, D

This is a beautiful tune, composed by former world pipe champion Robert Mathieson. Not easy to get just from the music - I think you really need to hear it to understand the phrasing etc.

25: Sonatina (Beethoven)



I first heard this played by the Irish folk group Dordan, with Mary Bergin playing whistle. It captivated me then, and I thought you might like to have a go.

26: Tigh na Gorm (Ian Powrie)

Composed by Ian Powrie, a Scots fiddler from Perthshire, who died in October 2011. The title translates as “House of the Blue” and is in honour of Powrie’s celebrated accordionist Jimmy Blue. It’s in the style of a pipe retreat, a ceremonial tune played as troops camped for the night.

27: *The Lady's Plaything* (traditional)

Chords: A, E, D, E, A, A, D, E, A, D, F#m, D, A, E(sus4), E, A, A, D, E, A

I first learned this tune and the next one when I was playing in an amateur folk group in the 1990s. *The Lady's Plaything* came from Matt Seattle's excellent book 'The Border Bagpipe Book', but is found in Aird's collection (c1780) as *General Howe's March*. It has an unusual B part which contains twelve bars instead of the usual eight.

28: *The Tailor's Shirt* (traditional)

Chords: G, G, A, A, A, G, A, D, A, G, Em, A, D, Em, F#m, Last time G

This tune also came from Matt Seattle's 'The Border Bagpipe Book', but is found in McFarlane's Manuscript (c1740). Sometimes the A part is played twice as long as notated here. It goes well after "The Lady's Plaything".

29: *Reel Eugene* (A Pigeon)

Bm Em F#m F#m

Bm Em F#m 1. Bm F#m 2. G A⁷

D D Bm A⁷ A⁷

D D Bm A⁷ A⁷ D

I learned this French Canadian tune from a wonderful video on YouTube (look up "Commando Trad Mission 5"). It was composed by Arthur Pigeon, about whom I know nothing. I love the way it moves from a minor key in the A part into a major key in the B part.

30a: *Patrick O'Connor's No.2* (traditional)

Am Em Am G Am Em Am G Am

Am Em G Am G Am Em Am G Am

30b: *Patrick O'Connor's No.1* (traditional)

Am Am G G Am Am G Am

Am Am G G Am Am G Am

I learned these Irish polkas from Edinburgh flute player Gordon Turnbull. "Patrick O'Connor's No.1" goes by the alternative title "Tom Barrett's".

31: *By Dundas Loch* (Phil Cunningham)

Chords for "By Dundas Loch":

Staff 1: A, A, D, D, Bm, E, A, A

Staff 2: A, A, D, D, E, A, D, A

Staff 3: A, A F#m, D E, D, A, F#m, Bm, E

Staff 4: A, A F#m, D E, D, Bm, A, D, A

Staff 5: A, A F#m, D E, D, A, F#m, Bm, E

Staff 6: A, A, D, D, E, A, D, A

"By Dundas Loch" is a beautiful slow air composed by Phil Cunningham and recorded on Phil and Aly Bain's 2002 CD "Portrait". Dundas Loch is in the grounds of Dundas Castle, an early 19th century baronial mansion near South Queensferry, Fife.

32: *Welcome Christmas Morning* (J Shand)

Chords for "Welcome Christmas Morning":

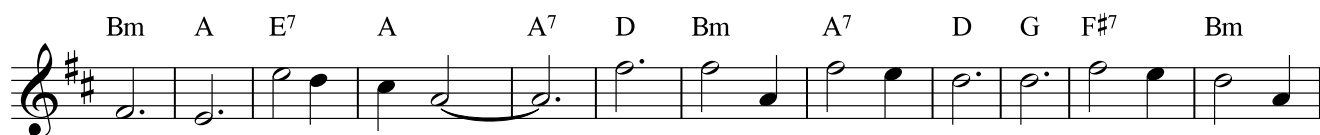
Staff 1: D, Bm7, A7, D, G, F#7, Bm, D, D, Bm, A7, D

Staff 2: E7, E7, A, A7, D, Bm7, A7, D, G, F#7, Bm

Staff 3: D, G, G, F#7, Bm, A, A7, D, D

Staff 4: D, Bm, A7, D, G, F#7, Bm, D, G, Em, D

Staff 5: Bm, A, E7, A, A7, D, Bm, A7, D, G, F#7, Bm



I'm a fan of the late button accordionist Jimmy Shand's playing, but not so much of his composing. However, he has written a few nice tunes, this being one of them.

33: *New Year's Day* (traditional)

A simple jig from the Gow collections. There is a slightly different version in Aird's 3rd collection.

34: *Liberton Polka* (traditional)

This is based on a version played by the late Dundonian fiddler/mandolinist Allan Barty, from his 1980 LP 'Barty's Bow'. It should be played slightly "dotted". Another name for the tune is the *Royal Scot Polka*.

35: *Isaac-a-Bell & Hugh the Graeme* (trad)

Bm A Bm A Bm Bm A Bm F#m



D Bm Bm A Bm Bm



Bm A D Bm F#m D Bm



This is from Christie's Traditional Ballad Airs (1874). Christie arranged the air in 1850 from the singing of an old woman from Buckie in Banffshire who lived roughly from 1787-1866.

36: *Marquis of Lorne* (traditional hornpipe)

G Em C Am D A D



G Em C Am D D7 G



G G D D C



G G D G

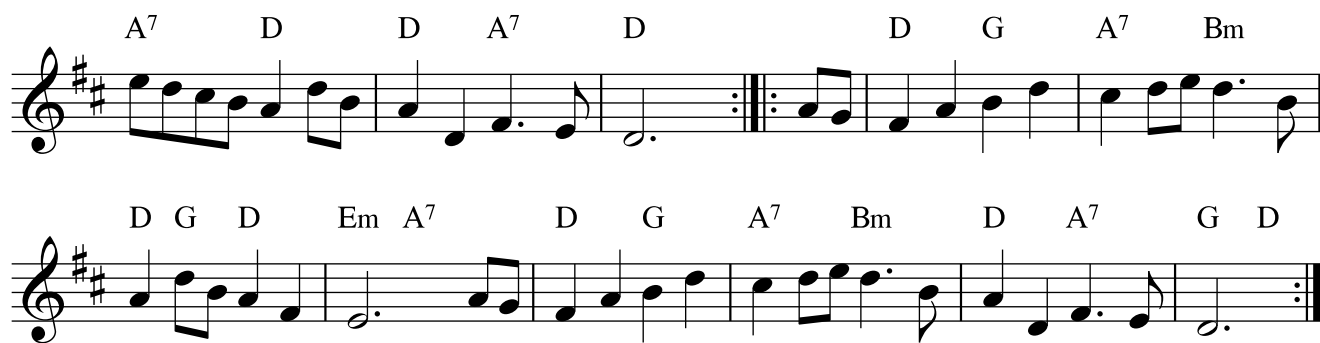


This is from 'Kohler's Violin Repository' (Edinburgh 1881-85). It is known in Ireland as "The Sligo Fancy" or "The Flowers of Antrim", and there are a few different ways of playing it.

37: *Strathearn* (Ron Gonnella)

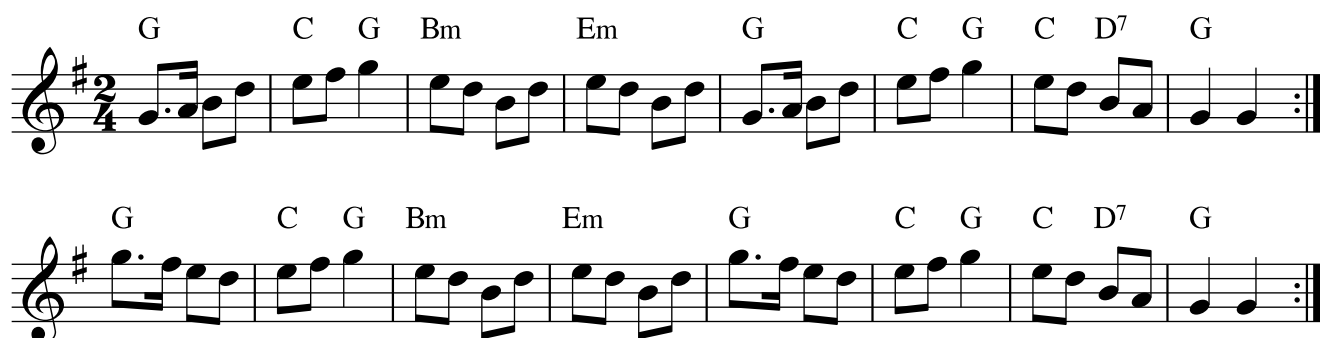
D A7 D Bm G Em A7 D





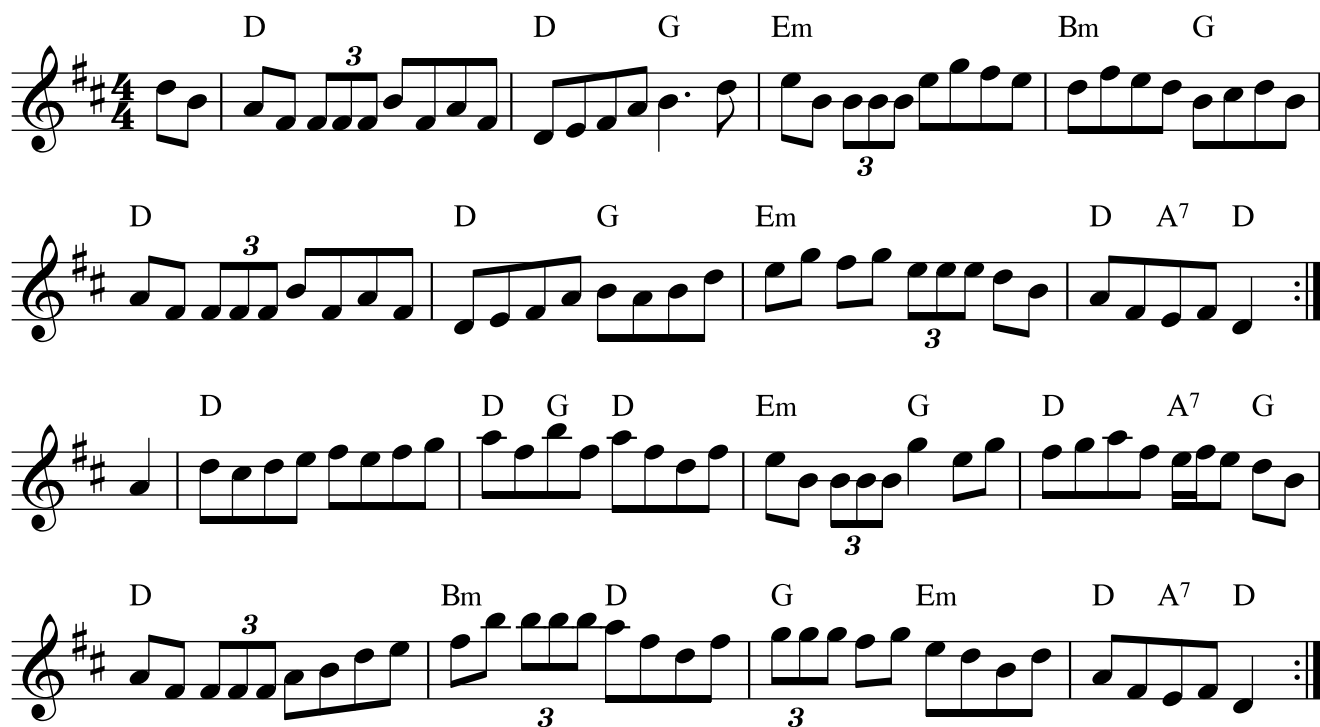
This was an eight-bar hymn tune composed by the late fiddler Ron Gonnella; I have expanded it into a beautiful slow air by repeating phrases. I think it works. Originally from Dundee, Gonnella lived in Crieff for many years before his death in 1990.

38: *John Clifford's No.1* (traditional Irish polka)



This came from a collection of tunes played by the Sliabh Luachra box player Johnny O'Leary. It has many alternative titles, including "Pádraig O'Keeffe's", "Cronin's Kitchen" and "The Broken Wheel".

39: *The Ash Plant* (traditional Irish reel)



I notated this years ago from a Mick Moloney album, where it was called Reel on Mandolin. I have since found out that it goes under many names, including "Jim Kelly's", "Dickie Sherlock's" and "The Night In Ennis". It's a great reel.

40: Dr JG Hunter of Aultbea (Alasdair Downie)

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, and A. The score includes first and second endings, marked with '1. A' and '2. A' respectively. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some dotted rhythms. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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