



HEBRIDEAN HOPSCOTCH

More Tunes and Songs from the Scottish Islands

selected by Nigel Gratherer



Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection



Leaving Barra (MacKinnon)

Gaelic waltz

Musical notation for 'Leaving Barra' (MacKinnon) in 3/4 time, key of D major. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: B C Ḋ Ė Ḋ C B A G A B Ḋ G E D (first line), D G A B C Ḋ Ė Ḋ B G B Ḋ B A (second line), B C Ḋ Ė Ḋ C B A G A B Ḋ G E D (third line), B C Ḋ Ḋ C B A G E G (fourth line), D B B A G (fifth line).



Fair Maid of Barra (Campbell)

Gaelic waltz

Musical notation for 'Fair Maid of Barra' (Campbell) in 3/4 time, key of D major. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are: A A A F# A A F# D E D F# (first line), E D A F# A Ḋ F# A B Ḋ C# (second line), B A F# G F# A Ḋ F# A B Ḋ C# (third line), B A D G A B A F# D E D F# E D (fourth line).

Leaving Barra



Sources: *Leaving Barra* Composed by Michael MacKinnon, this is possibly best known as a song sung by Calum Kennedy. My setting comes from the playing of Jimmy Shand.
Fair Maid of Barra Written by John Campbell of Barra. I once read that the fair maid in question was Morag MacAulay (1911-1998), a Barra historian, storyteller and Gaelic singer.

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song air

An Cluinn thu Mi Mo Nighean Donn (traditional)

Musical notation for 'An Cluinn thu Mi Mo Nighean Donn' in 3/4 time, key of D major. The notes are: D G A B A B Ḋ È F# Ġ È Ḋ B Ḋ B A D G A B Ḋ È F# Ġ È Ḋ È Ḋ B A G Ġ Ġ F# È Ġ F# È Ḋ Ḋ È Ḋ Ġ B A G E D G A B Ḋ È F# Ġ È Ḋ È Ḋ B A G.

The MacMillans of Eriskay (Anderson) reel

Musical notation for 'The MacMillans of Eriskay' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The notes are: E D D E G A B Ġ Ḋ B G B A G E G D D E G A B Ġ Ḋ B A B G G È Ḋ B G B A G A È Ḋ B Ḋ Ġ È Ġ È Ḋ B G B A B C È Ḋ B A B G G.



Cluinn thu Mi

Sources: *A Cluinn thu Mi Mo Nighean Donn* A fisherman's song from Eriskay, I first heard it from Bob Massie.
The MacMillans of Eriskay Written by fiddler Paul Anderson for a family who put him up on Eriskay after a gig.

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air

Rowing from Islay to Uist (traditional)

F# B B Ḋ È C# B C# È B B F# F#
 Ġ F# È F# C# Ḋ Ḋ È Ḋ C# B C# F#
 Ġ F# È F# C# Ḋ B A G F##
 B B Ḋ È C# B C# È
 B B F# F# Ġ F# È F# C#
 Ḋ Ḋ È Ḋ C# B C# F# Ġ F# È F# C#
 B C# Ḋ A F# F# F# E F# F# Ḋ È
 C# B A F# E D E G F# F# F# E
 F# F# Ḋ È C# B A B C# B



Rowing from Islay to Uist

This is an old rowing tune, found untitled in Patrick McDonald's 1784 collection. Most people today know it from an influential 1978 recording by the group Ossian.



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slow jig

The Eigg Poachers (Nigel Gatherer)

Musical notation for 'The Eigg Poachers' in treble clef, 6/8 time, key of D major. The notes are: E B G E F# D F# A B D E B G E F# D F# E. The second line continues: E B G E F# D F# A B D E D B A F# D A F# D E. The third line continues: E F# G F# E D E F# E F# G F# E D A F# A B D E F# G F# E. The fourth line continues: D E F# E D B A F# D A F# D E.



Kinloch Castle, Rum (Iain Peterson)

reel

Musical notation for 'Kinloch Castle, Rum' in treble clef, 4/4 time, key of D major. The notes are: E B A B G E E G F# G A G F# D D. The second line continues: E B A B G E E C# D A G F# D D F# E B A B G E E G. The third line continues: F# G A G F# D D E B A B D B B G F# B A F# E E. The fourth line continues: E E E D E B C# D A G F# D D E E E D E F# G E F# A G F# D F# A. The fifth line continues: E E E D E B C# D A G F# D D E E E D E B E G F# D D B A F# D F#.

Eigg Poachers

I was inspired by a tune called A Trip to Eigg, but my tune came out very differently, so I renamed it. Kinloch Castle is a mansion on Rum which built between 1897 and 1900. It is now owned by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection



Alas That I was Not Born Blind (Wm Ross)

song air

Musical notation for "Alas That I was Not Born Blind" in 3/4 time, key of D major. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are: B, D, B, A, G, A, B, D, E, D, E, G, D, G. The notes are written on a staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: C, D, E, D, E, D, B, A, G, C, D, E, B, D, B, A. The notes are: G, A, B, D, E, D, E, G.

The Garden of Skye (Harper)

march

Musical notation for "The Garden of Skye" in 4/4 time, key of D major. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: D, B, G, G, A, B, D, D, B, A, G, B, A, G, B, D. The notes are: E, E, D, E, G, G, E, E, D, D, B, D, B, D. The notes are: E, G, G, F#, E, G, F#, E, D, B, A, B, A, G, G, A, B, D, D, B, A, G, B, A, G. The notes are: D, B, B, D, E, E, G, D, E, D, D, B, A, B, D, D, G, E, E, G, D, E, D, B, A, B, D. The notes are: E, G, G, F#, E, G, E, E, D, B, A, B, A, G, G, A, B, D, D, B, A, G, B, A, G.



Alas That I was Not Born Blind

Sources: *Alas That I was Not Born Blind (Is Truagh Nach D'Rugadh Dall Mi)* is a Gaelic song composed by Skye-born William Ross (1762-1791), about a woman whose face causes anguish to thousands of men. It is sometimes known as Fill o Ro.

The Garden of Skye was composed by Wick fiddler Addie Harper, leader of the Wick Scottish Dance Band. The "Garden of Skye" is the Sleat peninsula.



Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection



Raasay House (traditional)

reel

Musical notation for Raasay House (4/4 time, key of D major):

F#G A B ADF#G A F#AG F#G A B ADF#A G F#ED
 F#E D ḊBAF#A D ḊBAF#EF# D ḊBAF#AB ḊBAF#E F#E
 D ḊB A F# A D ḊB A F# A B
 ḊB A F# B A F# E F# E D



Mrs MacLeod of Raasay (trad)

reel

Musical notation for Mrs MacLeod of Raasay (4/4 time, key of D major):

C#B A Ȧ F# E F# Ȧ C# C#BC# C#B
 A Ȧ F# E F# Ȧ B B A B ḊC#B A Ȧ F# E F# Ȧ C# C#BC# Ė
 F# F# E F# E F# Ė Ȧ F# E C# B C# B A B C# Ḋ E A C# A C# C# B C# B
 A B C# Ḋ E A C# A B B A B Ḋ C# B A B C# Ḋ E A C# A C# C# B C# Ė
 F# F# E F# E F# Ė Ȧ F# E C# B



Raasay House

Sources: *Raasay House*: I've been racking my brain trying to remember where this came from, without luck. There are two other tunes of the same name, but they are completely different. *Mrs MacLeod of Raasay* is one of the most widespread tunes in the world, with settings from Ireland, the U.S. and Canada. This one here is a standard setting in Scotland.

Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection



air

The Dark Island (Iain McLachlan)

Musical score for 'The Dark Island' in G major, 3/4 time. The score consists of ten staves of music with corresponding letter-based notes below each staff.

Staff 1: E A E A G A G E F# G D G A

Staff 2: B A G B D D B D B A D E

Staff 3: A E A G A G E F# G D G A

Staff 4: B D D B A D B A

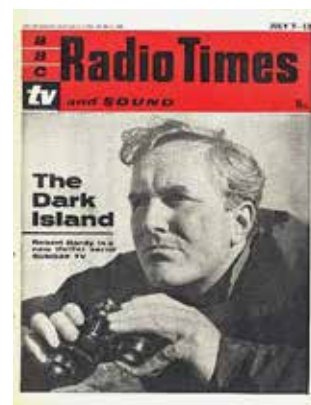
Staff 5: G G B C D D B A G

Staff 6: E G E D G A B A G

Staff 7: B D D B D B A D E A E A

Staff 8: G A G E F# G D G A B D D B

Staff 9: A D B A G G



Originally called Dr MacKay's Farewell to Creagorry by accordionist Iain McLachlan, the tune was used for a television programme called The Dark Island, and became known under that title forever after. There have been at least three sets of words written to the tune.

Dark Island

Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection



Uidhist Mo Gràidh (Uist My Love) (Matheson)

Gaelic waltz

Musical notation for the first line of 'Uist My Love' with notes and chord letters: D G A G G B D E G E D D G A G B A G

Musical notation for the second line of 'Uist My Love' with notes and chord letters: B A A A B C D È D B G D E G E D B C

Musical notation for the third line of 'Uist My Love' with notes and chord letters: D D D B B A G G

S Georgia Whaling Song (MacMillan) waltz

Musical notation for the first line of 'S Georgia Whaling Song' with notes and chord letters: D G G G B A G B D È D G F# È

Musical notation for the second line of 'S Georgia Whaling Song' with notes and chord letters: D B D È D B A G G G B A G

Musical notation for the third line of 'S Georgia Whaling Song' with notes and chord letters: B D È D È F# G È D B B A G G G F# G È D B D È B

Musical notation for the fourth line of 'S Georgia Whaling Song' with notes and chord letters: D G F# G È D B B A G A B A G G G

Musical notation for the fifth line of 'S Georgia Whaling Song' with notes and chord letters: B A G B D È D È F# G È D B B A G G



S Georgia Whaling Song

Uist My Love (Uidhist Mo Gràidh): Composed by Gaelic singer Alasdair Matheson of North Uist. He was a popular singer who also owned the Crown Hotel in Stornoway. He died in the early 1970s.

South Georgia Whaling Song: Written by Donald "Dottie" MacMillan from Kilpheder in South Uist. Its Gaelic title is Cha Till Mis a' Seoladh.



Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection



Harris Dance (2) (traditional)

reel

Musical notation for the first line of Harris Dance (2) with notes G, F#, G, A, E, G, D, B, D, G, G, B, G, F#, G, A, E, E.

Musical notation for the second line of Harris Dance (2) with notes G, E, E, D, B, A, A, E, E, F#, E, D, C#, A, E, D, B, D, G, G, B.

Musical notation for the third line of Harris Dance (2) with notes E, E, F#, E, D, C#, A, B, D, B, B, A, A.

Harris Dance (1) (traditional)

reel

Musical notation for the first line of Harris Dance (1) with notes C, G, E, G, A, G, E, G, E, E, D.

Musical notation for the second line of Harris Dance (1) with notes C, G, E, G, A, G, E, D, E, A, A, B.

Musical notation for the third line of Harris Dance (1) with notes E, D, C, A, G, A, E, E, D, C, A, G, A, E, D, C, A, G, A.

Musical notation for the fourth line of Harris Dance (1) with two endings: 1. C, D, C, A, G, A, C, D and 2. C, D, C, A, G, A, C, B.



Sources: Both of these tunes come from the Patrick McDonald Collection of 1884, wherein there are many tunes without names, some of which are described as "a Skye dance" or in this case, "a Harris dance". The first is transcribed from the playing of Scots fiddler Alasdair Fraser from a 1986 recording, while the second has been recorded many times by different musicians and groups. This setting is the one played by Blazin' Fiddles on their album *The Key* (2017).



Harris Dance

Nigel Gatherer's Scottish Collection



Bayble Island (Ian Crichton)

polka

Musical notation for the first line of Bayble Island. The notes are: A B D A B A D A B D F# E D E.

Musical notation for the second line of Bayble Island. The notes are: F# A A G E F# D E F# E D B B A A.

Musical notation for the third line of Bayble Island. The notes are: F# G A G E F# D A B D F# E D E A D B D.

Musical notation for the fourth line of Bayble Island. The notes are: B G A G F# E D B B A A.



Lewis Lilt (traditional)

polka

Musical notation for the first line of Lewis Lilt. The notes are: D G B B C A B B A G F# G.

Musical notation for the second line of Lewis Lilt. The notes are: A G G E D G B B C A B B A G F# G A G G.

Musical notation for the third line of Lewis Lilt. The notes are: D D D G B D C A B B A G F# G A G G B.

Musical notation for the fourth line of Lewis Lilt. The notes are: D D D G B D C A B B A G F# G A G G.

Sources: *Taynuilt to Bayble Island* is a 2/4 pipe march composed by Ian Crichton for the writer Iain Crichton Smith, who was born in the village of Bayble on the east coast of Lewis. I have adapted it into a polka.

I got *Lewis Lilt* from the playing of accordionist Bobby MacLeod. There is a whole load of tunes related to it. Adapted and arranged by me.



Bayble Island

Bayble Island