

89: *The Spey in Spate* (James Scott Skinner)



D D Em A⁷
 D D Em D A⁷ G D A⁷ D
 D D Em A⁷
 D D Em D A⁷ G D A⁷ D



A brilliant reel from the pen of Scott Skinner (1843-1927). On the face of it it's fast, complicated and difficult; with a little understanding of what's going on, it isn't quite so bad. It's very much based on chordal patterns: the first bar is rooted in the D major arpeggio, then followed by a run down the scale. 3rd bar is the E minor arpeggio, 4th bar the A seventh arpeggio. The last two bars are a zig-zag pattern all the way down to the resolution on the D note. The B part follows a similar pattern, noodling about the D, Em and A⁷th chords until the last phrase (last two bars) which is the same as in the A part. A knowledge and understanding of arpeggio patterns make tunes like this one much more accessible.