

The Carlins Lowp

MIXTER MAXTER 32

The historic village of Carlops got its name from two rock faces in the village between which, legend has it, witches were bound and thrown off the edge. If they flew, they were obviously witches; if they didn't they were innocent, but plunged to their deaths.

This was called "Carlins Lowp" (The Witches Leap). Another important figure from the area was the celebrated poet and folksong collector Allan Ramsay (1686-1758), whose musical play *The Gentle Shepherd* was set in nearby Habbie's Howe. His son - also Allan Ramsay (1713-1784) - was one of the greatest portait painters in Scotland, and indeed England.

The Witches' Leap (Nigel Gatherer)

slow air

Musical score for mandolin in D major, 4/4 time, consisting of five systems of music. Each system includes a treble clef staff with notes and rests, and a mandolin tablature staff with fret numbers (0-5) and string indicators (T for treble, B for bass).

System 1: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: D, Bm, G, A7. Tablature: 4 2 0 5 0 5 0 4 2 | 4 2 2 4 5 2 4 | 5 0 5 4 0 0 2

System 2: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3. Chords: A7, Bm, D, Bm. Tablature: 4 0 5 0 2 0 4 2 | 0 5 0 5 0 4 2 | 4 2 2 4 5 0 2 3

System 3: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: D, A7, D, A7, A7. Tablature: 2 0 0 2 2 0 5 4 | 0 5 5 :| 0 2 3 0 4 0 | 2 0 0 5 0 4 0

System 4: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: D, D, A7, D, A7. Tablature: 2 3 5 0 5 2 | 5 3 3 2 0 4 0 5 | 4 2 5 3 0 5 3

System 5: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords: Bm, Em, G, A7, D. Tablature: 2 0 5 4 2 0 2 | 3 5 3 2 0 0 4 5 | 0 5 5 :|

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The Old Witch of Ochiltree (traditional)

air

Musical notation for 'The Old Witch of Ochiltree' in 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a mandolin tablature staff below it. Chord progressions are indicated above the treble staff.

System 1: Am Am C Bm G Em Am Am
 System 2: C Em Am C G Bm Em Am G
 System 3: G Em Am Am C Em Am

Carlin, Is Your Daughter Ready? (traditional)

reel

Musical notation for 'Carlin, Is Your Daughter Ready?' in 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a mandolin tablature staff below it. Chord progressions are indicated above the treble staff.

System 1: A A G A
 System 2: Em G A G
 System 3: A Em G A



The Old Witch of Ochiltree was published in James Oswald's *Caledonian Pocket Companion* Vol.6 in 1746. *Carlin Is Your Daughter Ready* comes from *Rutherford's Compleat Collection* Volume 2 (1759).



Clout the Cauldron (traditional)

Bm D Em

A D A Bm



D A Bm A

The Witch Polka (Nigel Gatherer)

Bm Bm G A

F#m Bm Bm G A

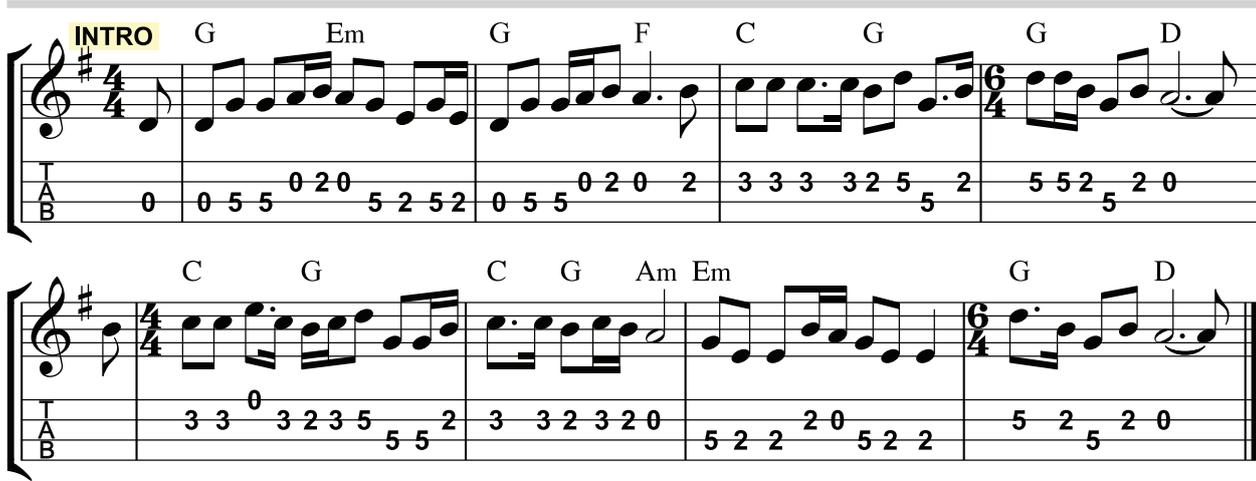
1. Bm 2. Bm A D D A

A D D A 1. Bm A 2. Bm

The Witch o' Carlins Lowp (Ian McCalman, arr Gatherer)

INTRO

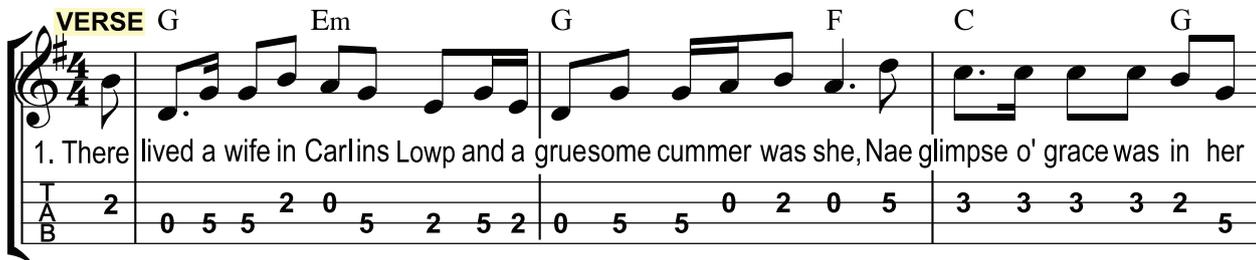
G Em G F C G G D



VERSE

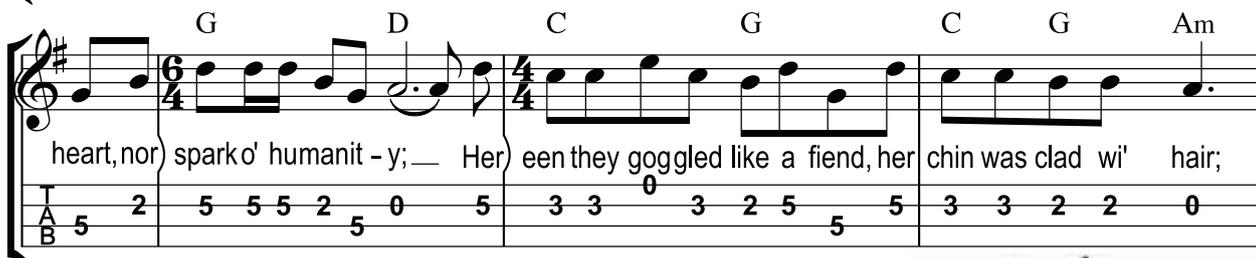
G Em G F C G

1. There lived a wife in Carlins Lowp and a gruesome cummer was she, Nae glimpse o' grace was in her



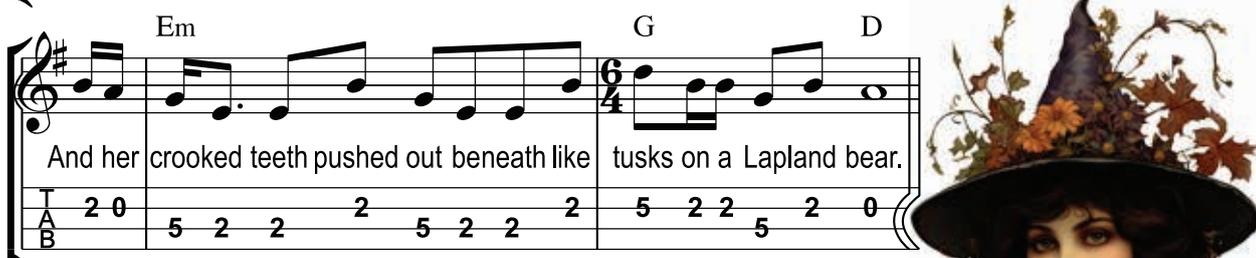
G D C G C G Am

heart, nor sparko' humanit - y; Her een they goggled like a fiend, her chin was clad wi' hair;



Em G D

And her crooked teeth pushed out beneath like tusks on a Lapland bear.



CHORUS

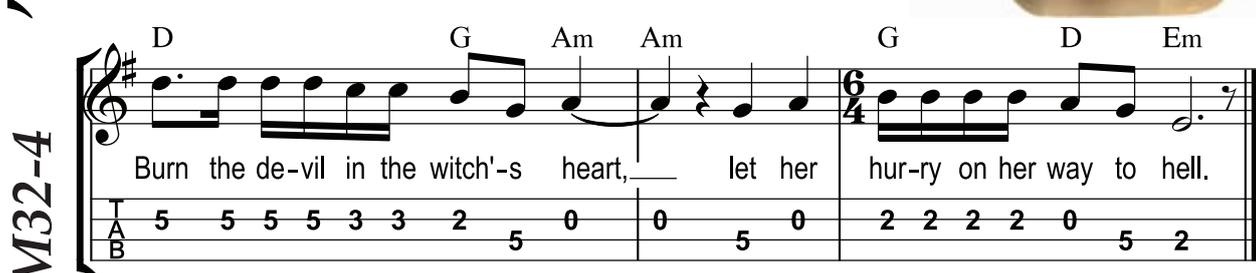
D G D G

Burn the witch o' Carlins Lowp burn the witch and her aw-ful spell;



D G Am Am G D Em

Burn the de-vil in the witch'-s heart, let her hur-ry on her way to hell.






The Witch o' Carlins Lowp (continued)

1. There lived a wife in Carlin's Lowp and a gruesome cummer was she, nae glimpse o'
 grace was in her heart, nor spark o' humani - ty, her een they goggled like a fiend, her
 chin was clad wi hair, and her crooked teeth pushed out beneath like tusks on a Lapland Bear.

Ch: Burn the Witch o Carlin's Lowp, burn the Witch and her
 awful spell, burn the devil in the witch's heart,
 (Let her) hurry on her way to hell.



2. Now she's killed the heifer on the green, the lambs
 upon the lea, and monie a bonny bairnie cried, that
 could never live or dee. The sherrif has sent his scouts
 abroad, and they sought both east and west, till they cam
 tae the cave as dark as the grave, where they found her sleeping fast.

Ch: Burn the Witch o Carlin's Lowp, burn the Witch and her awful spell, burn the devil
 in the witch's heart; (let her) hurry on her way to hell.

3. Well they built a fire around the hag, twa Scots ells up an' higher, an' the hangman cam
 wi a lourin torch tae light the horrid pyre, an' when the flames had reached her heart, she
 gied an awfu' yell, an' her spirit o sin it fell within, but where I canno' tell.

Ch: Burn the Witch o Carlin's Lowp, burn the Witch and her awful spell, burn the devil
 in the witch's heart; (let her) hurry on her way to hell.



The Grey Widow (Donald Knox)



Am C Em

Am G D

Am C Em Am G/B C G/D C 1: Em Am 2: G D

Musical notation for 'The Grey Widow' in 4/4 time, featuring guitar tablature and chord diagrams.

Witches Hill (Paul Anderson)

Am G Am G Am

C G C G Am

Musical notation for 'Witches Hill' in 4/4 time, featuring guitar tablature and chord diagrams.

Witch Island (Janos Lang)

Bm Bm A Bm G D

Bm A Bm Em A Bm A Bm

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Musical notation for 'Witch Island' in 9/8 time, featuring guitar tablature and chord diagrams.

Three contemporary tunes from musicians involved in the Scottish scene.

Nigel Gatherer's Workshops



Black Cat Jig (Daniel Compton)

jig

Em Bm D G D Em Bm

D Bm D Em Em Bm D Em B7

Em Bm D Bm D Em



Old Grey Cat Jig (traditional, arr Gatherer)

jig

Em Em D D Em

Em Bm Em Em Em D

D Em G Am B7 Em B7 Em



Cats and witches have been linked since the Middle Ages, when it was thought that cats had supernatural powers. During the period of witch persecution in Scotland (1563-1736) many cats were killed because of this belief.





The Witches' Song (Matt McGinn)

Em Em G D Em

Em Am Em B⁷ Em Am Em B⁷

Em G C B⁷ Em D Em

The image shows three systems of mandolin tablature. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. Below the staff are two lines representing the mandolin strings, labeled 'A' (top) and 'B' (bottom). The first system has four measures with chords Em, Em, G, D, and Em. The second system has four measures with chords Em, Am, Em, B7, Em, Am, Em, and B7. The third system has four measures with chords Em, G, C, B7, Em, D, and Em. The tablature uses numbers 0-5 to indicate fret positions on the strings.

**Hie, tattie, tattie, tattie, hie come tattie tae,
Hie, tattie, tattie, tattie, hie come tattie tae.**

- 1 If ye wander near the forrest, on the witches you may chance,
In the middle o' the night they're there for necromantic dance. **(Hie, tattie, etc)**
- 2 The weather must be drear, the hour must be drab.
The caudron's on the fire, we will make her thick an' slab. **(Hie, tattie, etc)**
- 3 Frae the lizard take the leg; then unleash the dog;
Fling them in tae bile wi' the carcass o' the frog. **(Hie, tattie, etc)**
- 4 Black spirits an' white, red spirits an' grey,
Mingle, mingle, mingle, mingle, you that mingle may. **(Hie, tattie, etc)**
- 5 Now the broth is brew'd, now the dance is done,
We will fill our stomachs for the feast is just begun.

**Hie, tattie, tattie, tattie, hie come tattie tae,
Hie, tattie, tattie, tattie, hie come tattie tae.**

In 1563 Scotland passed the Witchcraft Act which, until 1736 when it was repealed, resulted in the execution of an estimated two and half thousand people for witchcraft, five times the average for Europe at the time. Around 85% of those killed were women, and it wasn't until 2022 that the victims' names were cleared and pardoned, and Scotland's first minister officially apologised. Shortly afterwards the Scottish Kirk apologised for its part in the persecution.

