

Styles & Genres

Tune Types: Hornpipes 1

HORNPIPES are thought to have originated in England, and the early English hornpipes were in 3/2 time. They always seem to have had a nautical connection, but the reasons for this are shrouded in mystery. By the 1740s dancers were performing the hornpipe on stage in London dressed in sailor's costume, incorporating movements associated with seamen: Looking out to sea, pulling ropes, hoisting flags (and trousers!), etc. This

dance is still performed today, usually by young girls in sailors' outfits.

The tunes called hornpipes are popular with musicians, but are not linked with the dance now. In Scotland, hornpipes are more often used for a barndance, but they're enjoyed simply for playing by themselves, in sessions or on stage.



Rhythm

There are two different hornpipe rhythms, regular and irregular. In regular hornpipes, all the eighth notes are the same length, and in irregular hornpipes (also called "dotted" hornpipes or "Newcastle style") the first of each pair of eighth notes is slightly lengthened, and the second is slightly shortened. The latter type is the more common, and you can tell by the little dot after the first of the pair, and the half-beam on the second of the pair.

The Dundee Hornpipe is known in Ireland as *The Kildare Fancy* or *The Sligo Hornpipe*.



The Dundee Hornpipe (traditional)

hornpipe

Musical score for 'The Dundee Hornpipe' in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a mandolin tablature staff. The tablature includes fret numbers (0-5) and bar lines. Chord symbols (D, G, Em, A7, D7) are placed above the treble staff. The piece features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets and dotted rhythms.

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