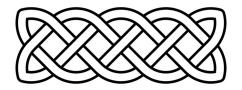


Traditional Irish B/C Box Bass and Chord Tune Transcriptions



Michael Eskin

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Introduction

One of my recent projects has been writing up tune transcriptions for B/C box complete with bass and chord indications for players learning to play the bass side.

When I started learning to play the basses, I found it hard to find such information anywhere, so I hope these transcriptions will be useful to other B/C players who are taking on the challenge of learning the basses.

In these transcriptions, I am not attempting to teach how to backup traditional Irish music. That is an entirely different skill than the physical challenge of dealing with the basses themselves.

My assumption is that you already are playing the tune melodies on the treble side of your instrument and are looking to learn to include the bass and chord buttons in your playing. I also assume that to extend these skills to other tunes not in this collection, you either already know how to determine the appropriate backup chords from the melody or are willing to learn bass/chord arrangements by rote as a starting point.

My particular chord selections may be a reasonable starting point for learning the skill of backing Irish traditional music, but that is not the primary goal of these transcriptions. To learn how to backup tunes, I suggest checking out Dr. Chris Smith's fantastic book "Celtic Backup for All Instrumentalists", available on Amazon from Mel Bay.

While there are multiple possible approaches to playing the bass and chords, my preferred pattern for reels, hornpipes, and barndances is to play the bass buttons only on a chord change, and the chord buttons only on the offbeats.

For jigs, I play the bass buttons only on a chord change, and the chord buttons on the 3 and 6 (assuming counting jigs with 6 beats per measure).

For slides, I play the bass buttons only on a chord change, and the chord buttons on the 3, 6, 9, and 12 (assuming counting slides with 12 beats per measure).

Some players, I believe influenced by older style players they learned from originally, also play the bass buttons on the every downbeat as well, not just on chord changes as in my preferred patterns. Having the flexibility and skill to vary your bass and chord patterns is a useful skill to practice, nothing is set in stone, so play around with all the possibilities!

For waltzes, I'm using a conventional bass-chord-chord pattern.

In these transcriptions, I indicate pressing the bass button with an uppercase letter above the staff and the chord button with a lowercase letter above the staff.

Here's how to read the tablature below the staves:

Notes on the C-row are indicated by numbers.

Notes on the B-row are indicated by numbers in circles.

Push is indicated with a down arrow.

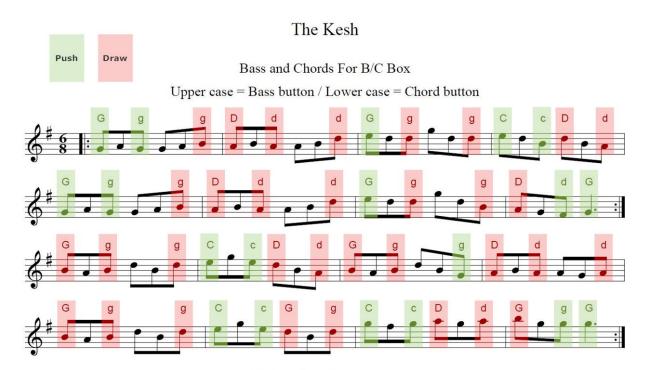
Draw is indicated with an up arrow.

The tab assumes a 21-button instrument. If you are playing a 23-button instrument, you will need to shift your start position one button higher when playing,

The tablature solution is not aware of the basses and assumes that the "magic" notes (E and B on a B/C) that are available on both rows, will be played on the C-row. You may find the occasional case when playing the basses along with the melody that you need to use the alternative E or B.

This is a limitation of the tablature generation system.

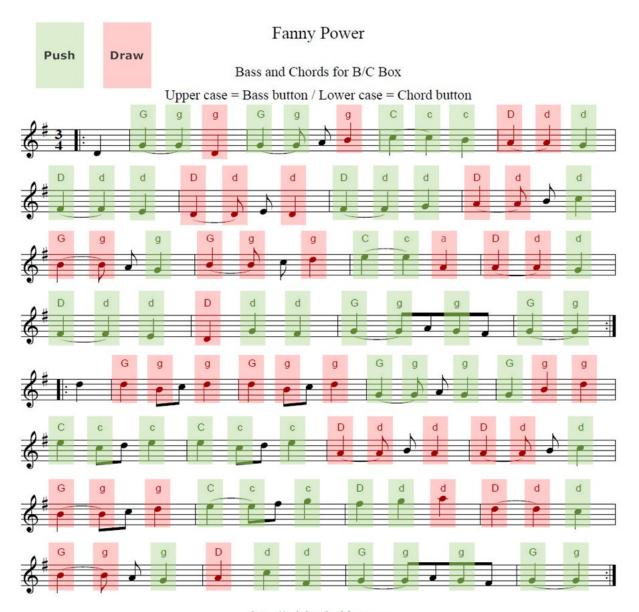
To help you get started, I've also color-coded the bellows direction for a couple of the tunes:



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In the first measure of this example, the first G bass and G chord on would be played on the push along with the push G on the treble side. The second G chord played would be on the draw G chord button along with the draw B on the C row of the treble side. On many instruments, those two G chords would be played on different buttons on the bass side.

Here's another color-coded example, the O'Carolan waltz "Fanny Power" (thirds out of chords):



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The bellows direction color coding is not present in the transcriptions below, only the bass or chord button name is shown above the notes along with bellows direction (Push or Draw).

Going through these transcriptions will provide a good starting point exercise for finding the combination of treble button and bass or chord button for either the push or draw. In particular they should be helpful in those cases where there may be some ambiguity because of the "magic" notes such as B and E as well as the G and D bass/chords that are available in both directions on the most common 8-button bass layouts.

In general, the arrangements should work on most common 8-button B/C bass layouts which include both push and draw G and D, only push C and E, and only draw A bass and chords, but some are arranged for extended 12-bass button layouts that include a draw E and push B.

The transcriptions do assume you have the thirds removed from the chords, either with a dedicated stop or taped off on the reed block.

If you have any questions about these transcriptions, please feel free to contact me at:
seisiuneer@gmail.com
Cheers and many thanks,

Michael

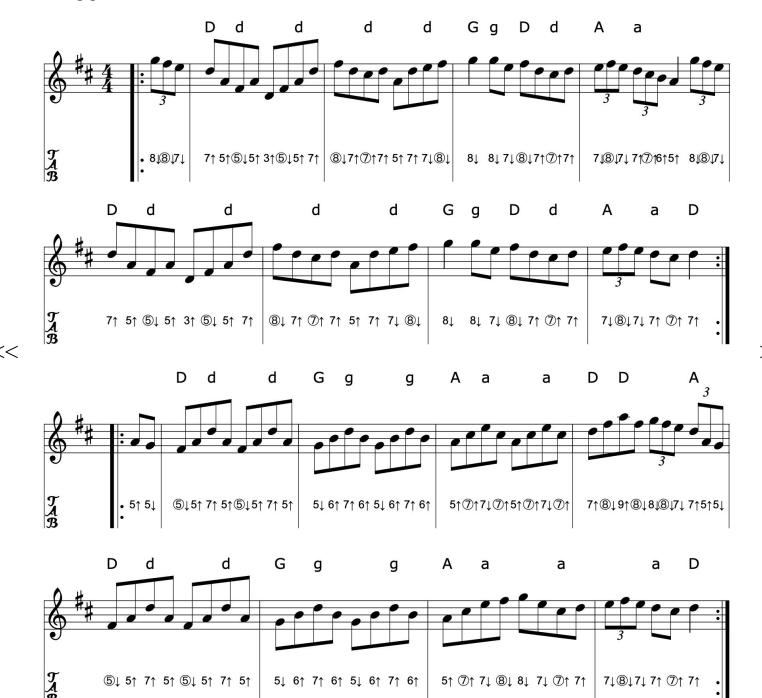
Table of Contents

Alexander's	1
The Banshee	2
The Boys Of Bluehill	3
The Cameronian	4
The Cat Rambles To The Child's Saucepan	5
The Chaffpool Post	6
Cock O' The North	7
Cooley's	8
Cronin's	9
Donnybrook Fair	10
Dunphy's	11
The Factory Smoke	12
Fanny Power (O'Carolan)	13
The Flowers Of Spring	15
Forde's	16
Going to the Well for Water	17
The Green Fields Of Rossbeigh	19
The Humours Of Castlecomer	20
If I Had A Wife	21
Jerry's Beaver Hat	22
John Kelly's Concertina	23
John Ryan's	24
The Kesh	25
The Knocknaboul	26
The Lark In The Morning	28
Lucy Farr's	30
The Maid Behind The Bar	31
The Maid Of Mount Kisco	32
The Mason's Apron	33
Mayor Harrison's Fedora	34
Memories Of Ballymote	36
Merrily Kissed the Quaker's Wife	37

The Merry Blacksmith	39
Music In The Glen	40
One Seventy Four (O'Carolan)	41
Out On The Ocean	43
Over The Moor To Maggie	45
Paddy Cronin's Slide	47
The Pleasures Of Hope	49
Rakish Paddy	50
The Rambling Pitchfork	51
The Scholar	52
Sherlock's	53
Sí Beag Sí Mór (O'Carolan)	54
The Silver Spear	56
The Smell of the Bog	57
Sonny Brogan's	58
Speed The Plough	59
Spellan The Fiddler	60
The Tailor's Twist	61
The Thames	62
The Wicklow	64

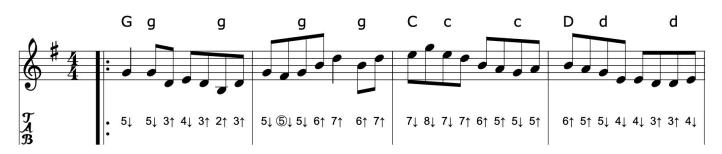
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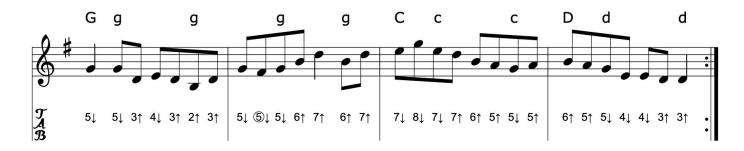
Hornpipe

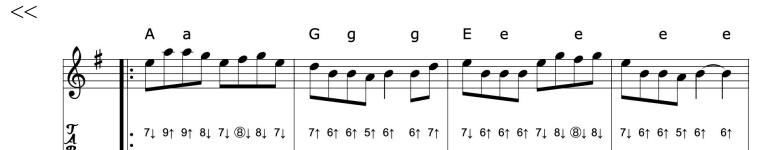


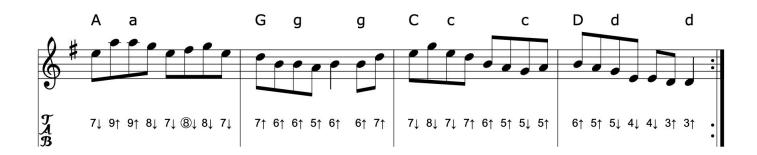
The Banshee

Reel





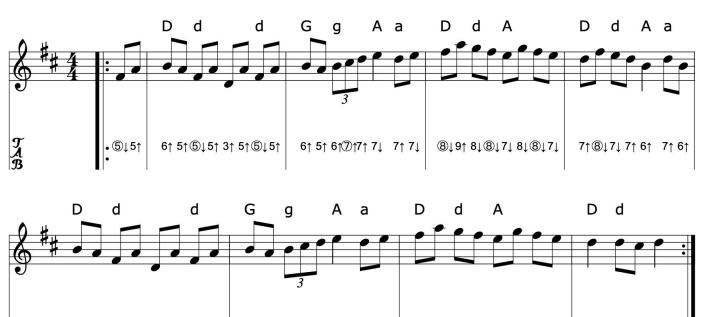


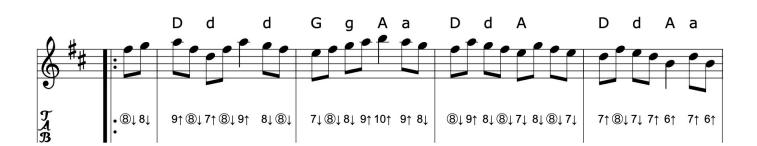


The Boys Of Bluehill

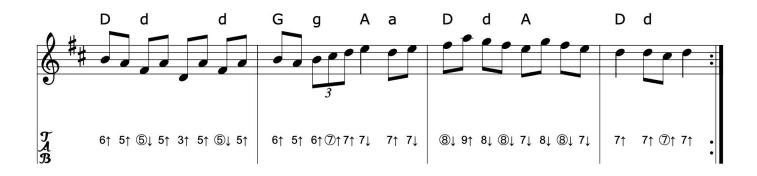
Hornpipe

6↑ 5↑ ⑤↓ 5↑ 3↑ 5↑ ⑤↓ 5↑



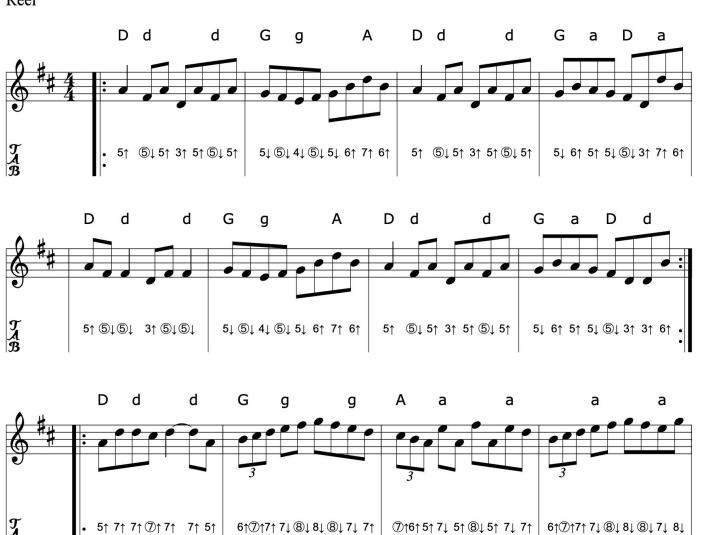


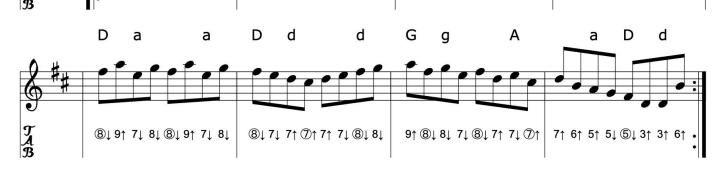
7↑ 7↓



The Cameronian

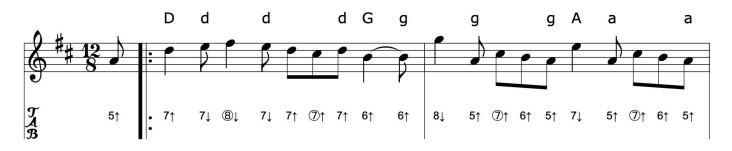
Reel

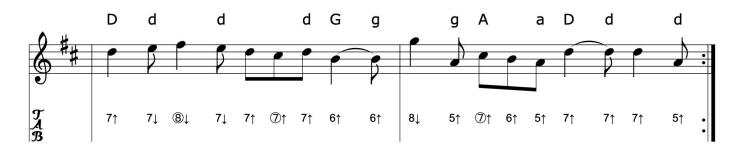


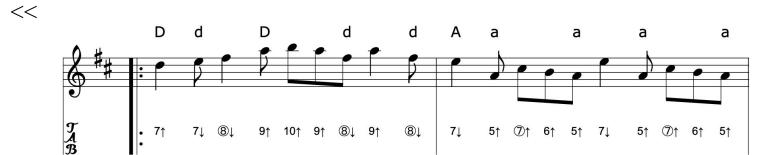


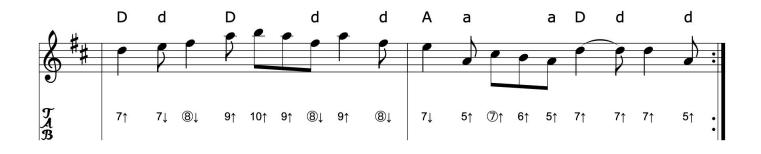
The Cat Rambles To The Child's Saucepan

Slide









The Chaffpool Post

Barndance

10↑ 7↑ 7↑ 7↑

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6↓ 6↑ 5↑ 6↑ 6↓ 7↑ 7↓ ⑧↓

8↓ 8↓9↑ 8↓ 8↓

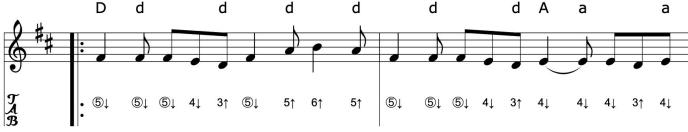
8↓ 8↓9↑ 8↓ 8↓8↓•

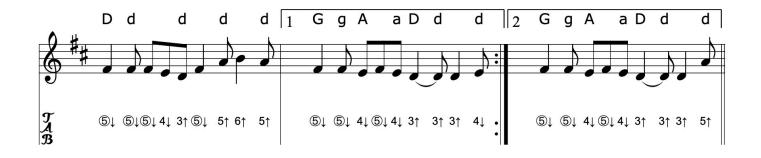
Cock O' The North

Slide

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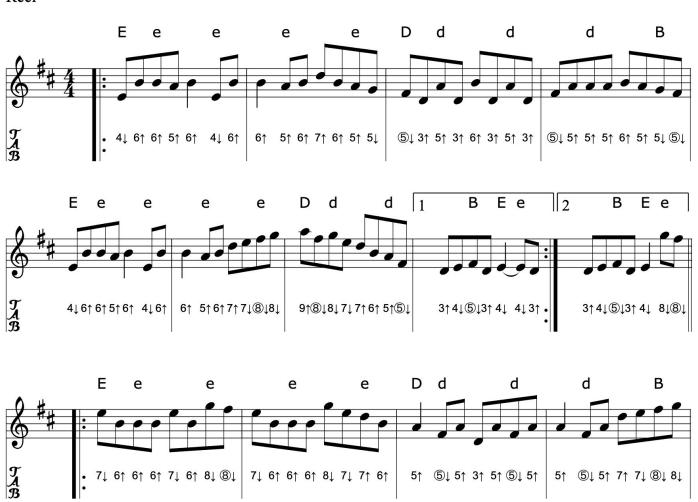


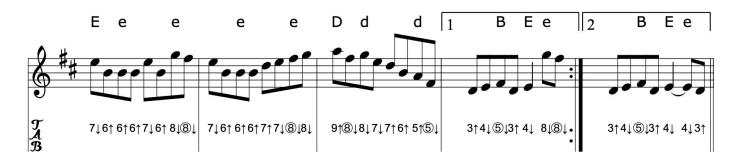


Cooley's

Reel

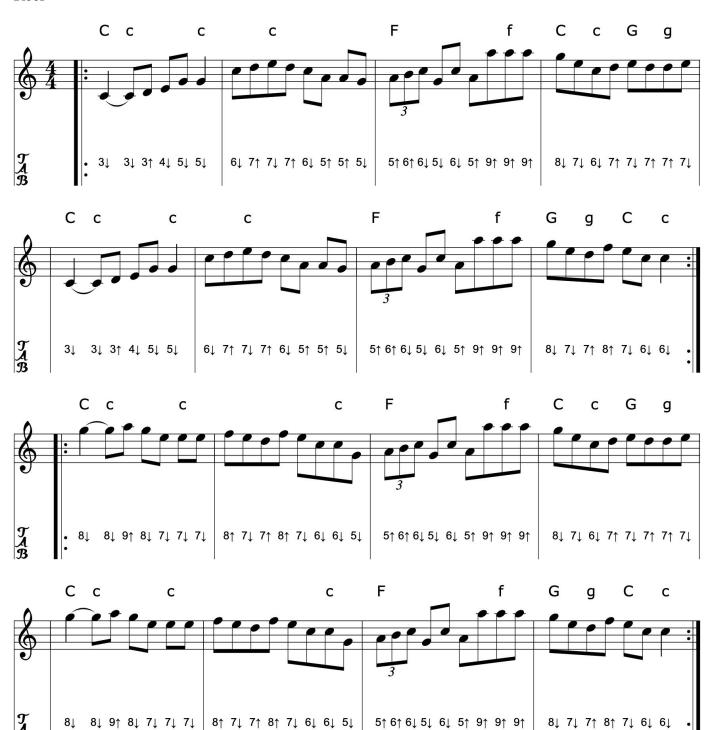
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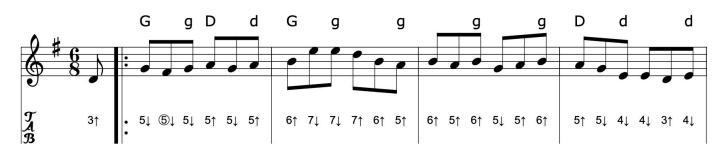
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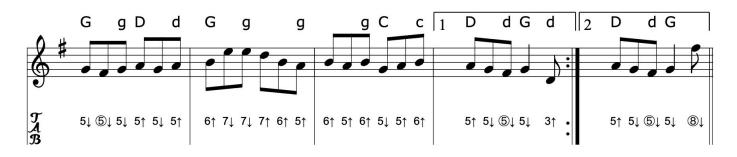
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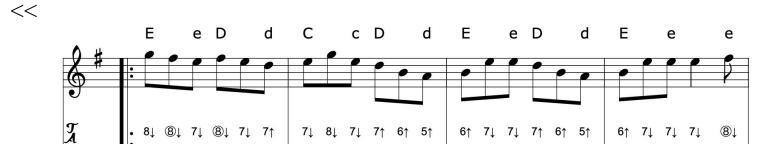


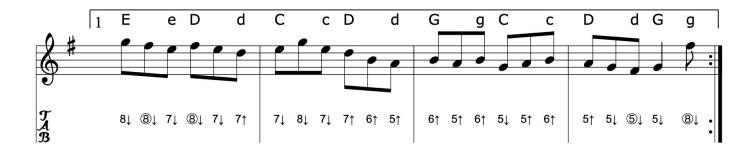
Donnybrook Fair

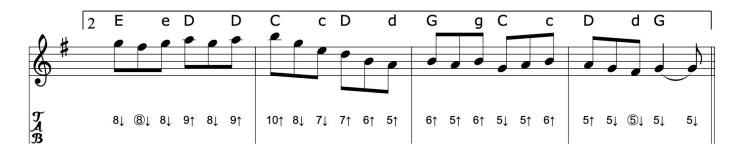
Jig





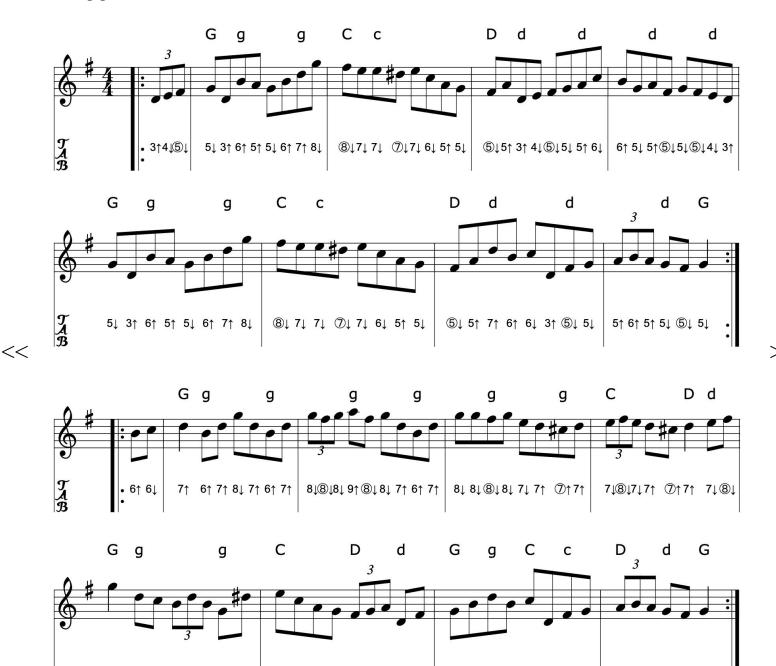






Dunphy's

Hornpipe



 $7 \downarrow \hspace{0.1cm} 6 \downarrow \hspace{0.1cm} 5 \uparrow \hspace{0.1cm} 5 \downarrow \hspace{0.1cm} \textcircled{5} \downarrow 5 \downarrow 5 \uparrow \hspace{0.1cm} 3 \uparrow \hspace{0.1cm} \textcircled{5} \downarrow$

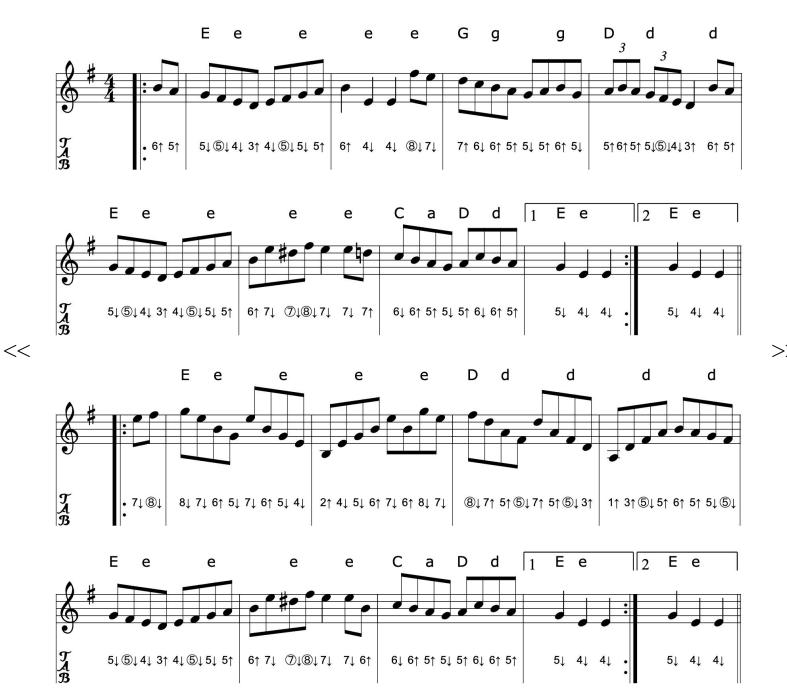
7↑ 6↓ 6↑ 7↑ 6↑ 5↓ ⑦↓

5↑ 6↑ 5↑ 5↓ ⑤↓ 5↓

 $5\downarrow$ $6\uparrow$ $7\uparrow$ $6\uparrow$ $6\downarrow$ $3\uparrow$ $5\downarrow$ $5\downarrow$

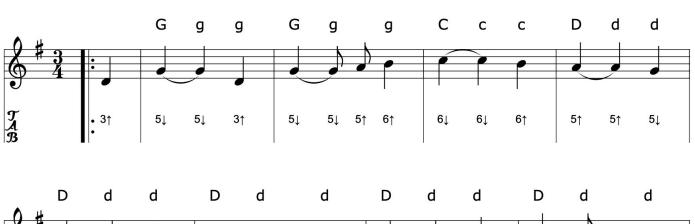
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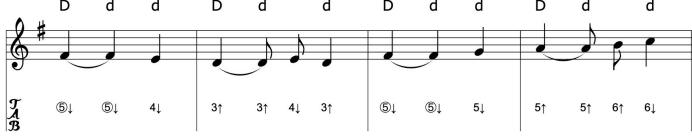
Hornpipe

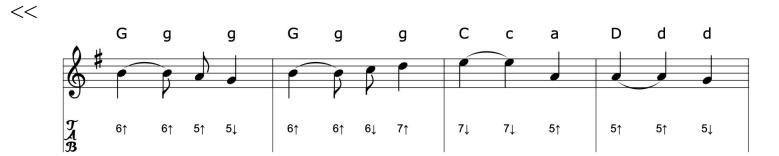


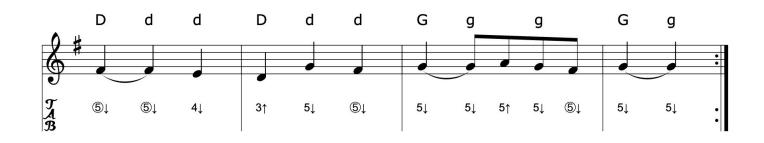
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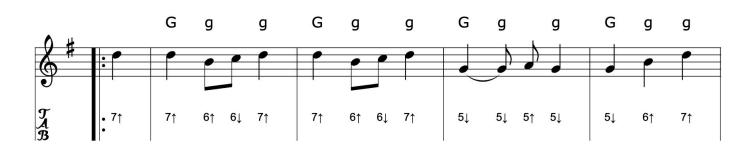
Waltz

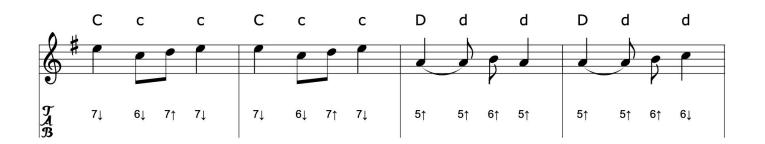


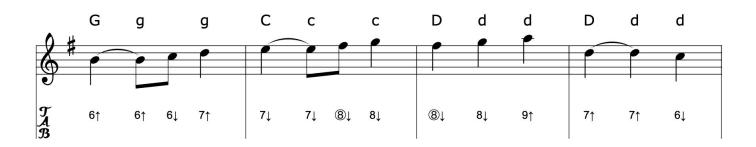


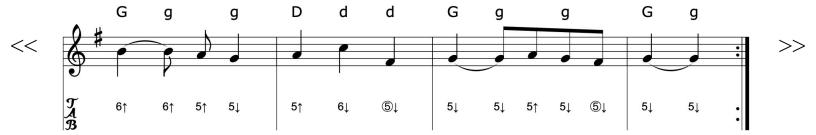






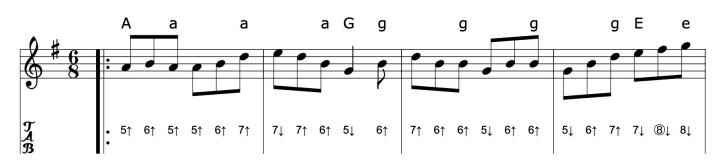


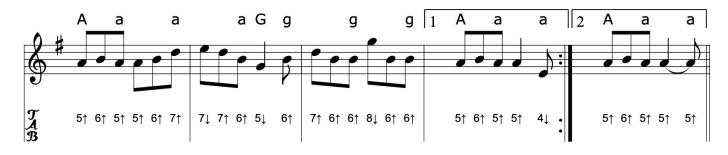




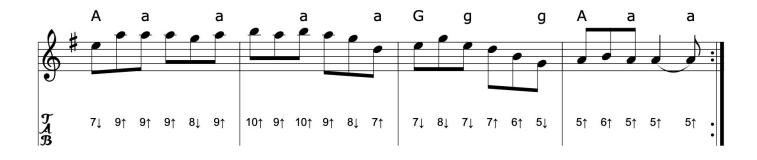
The Flowers Of Spring

Jig



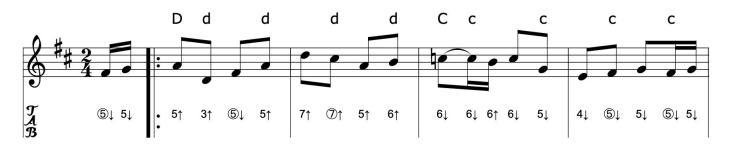


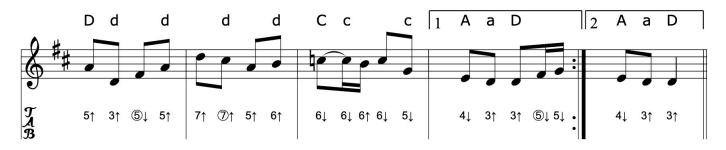


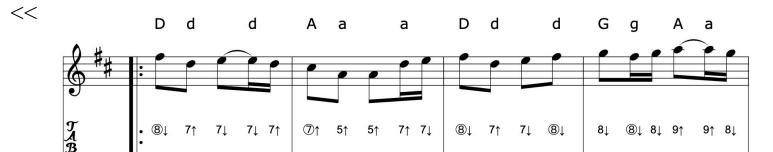


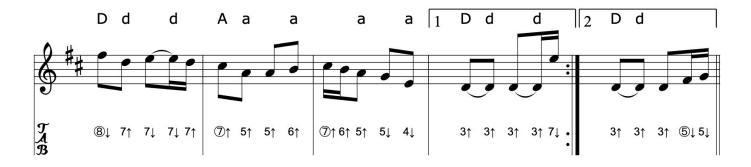
Forde's

Polka





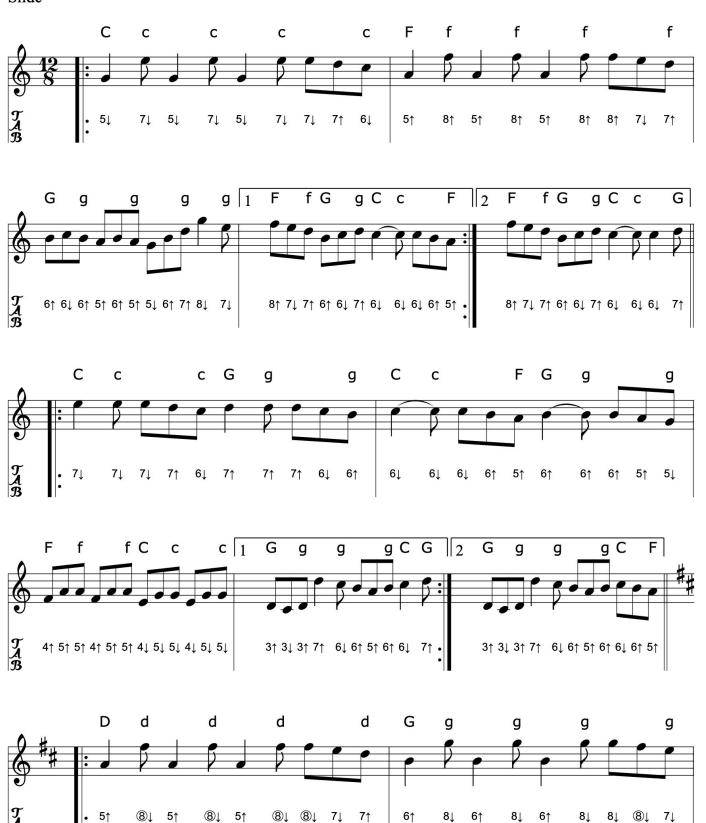




Going to the Well for Water

Slide

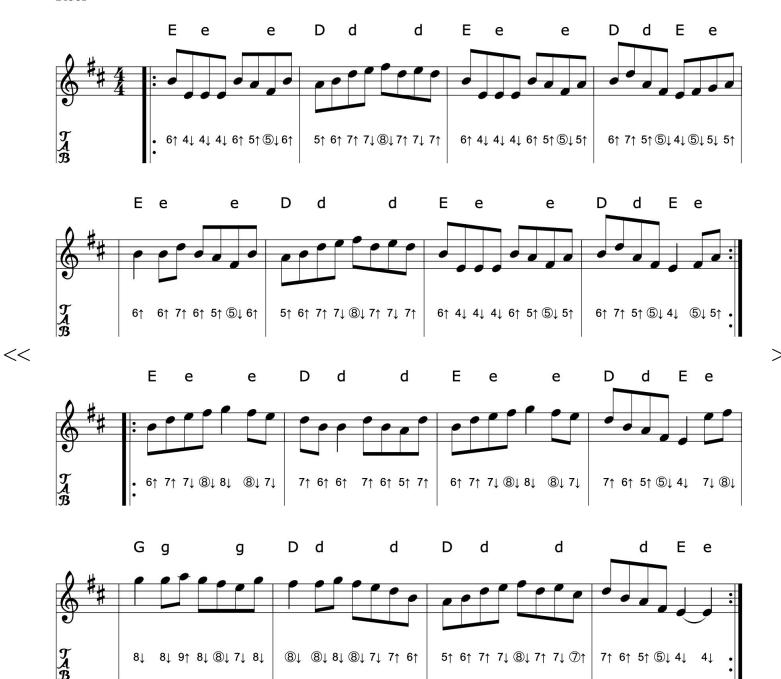
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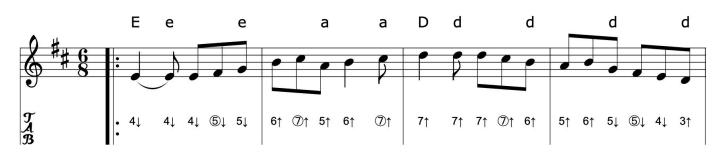
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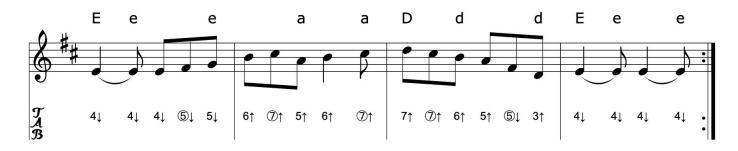
Reel

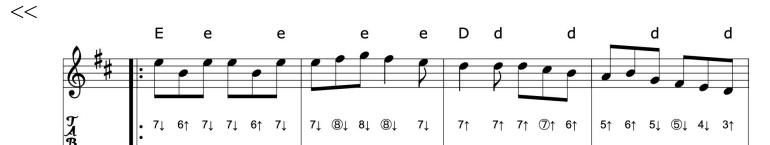


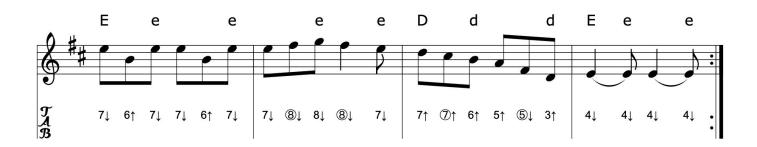
The Humours Of Castlecomer

Jig



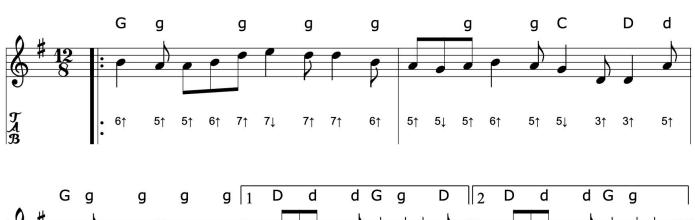




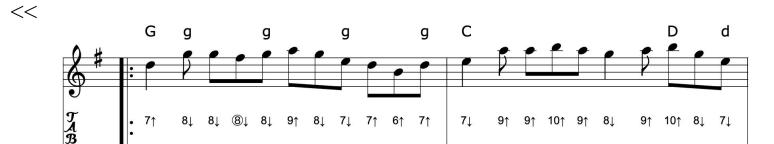


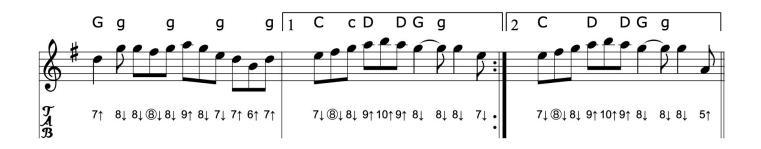
If I Had A Wife

Slide



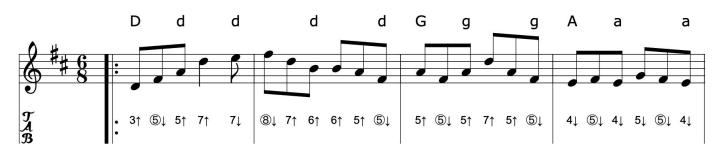


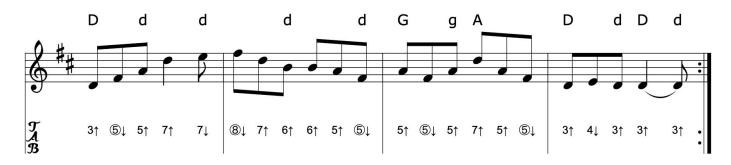


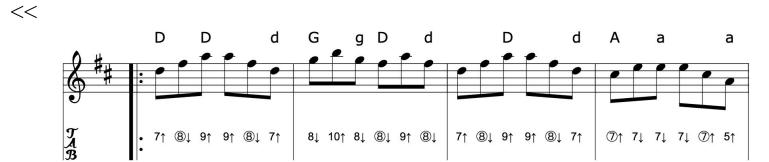


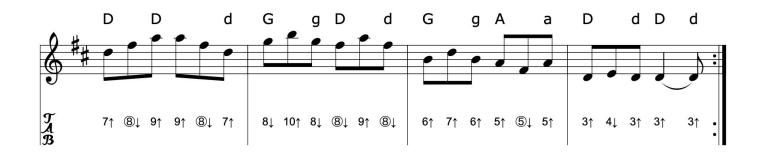
Jerry's Beaver Hat

Jig



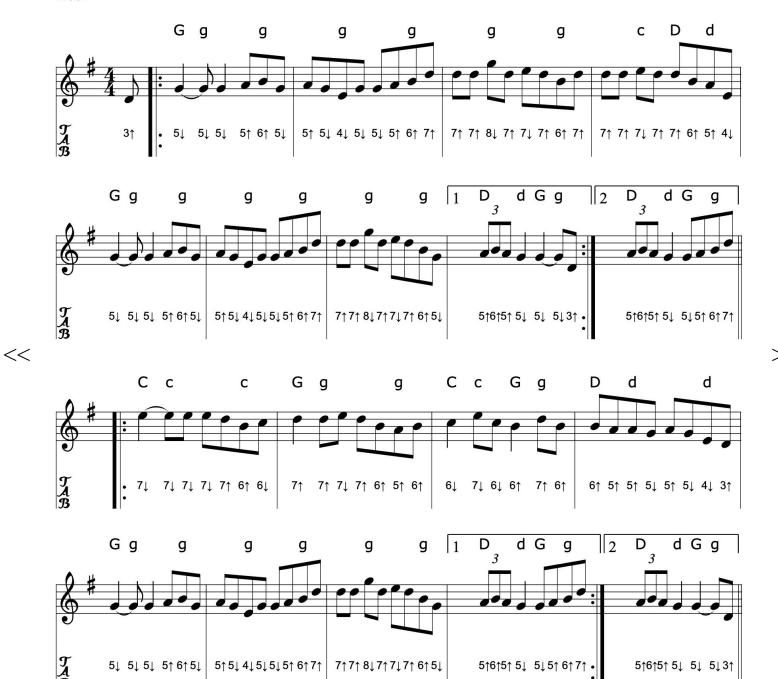






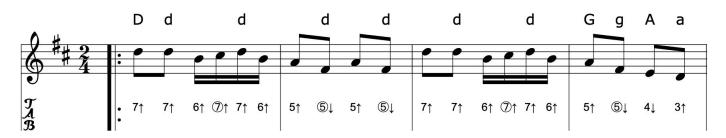
John Kelly's Concertina

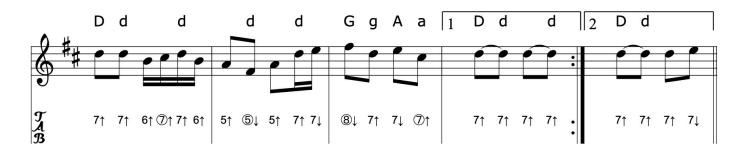
Reel

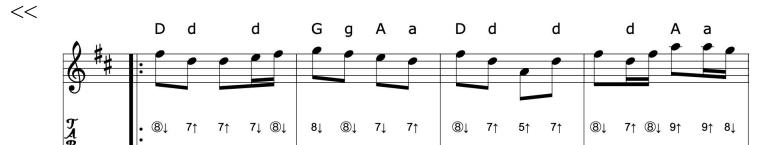


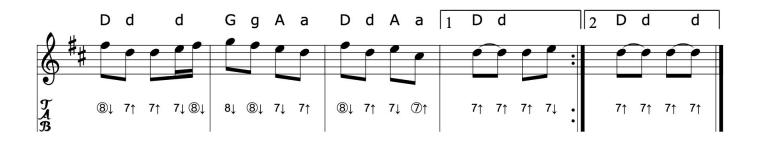
John Ryan's

Polka



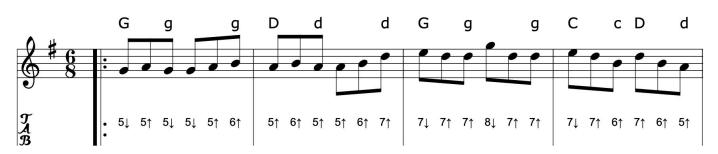


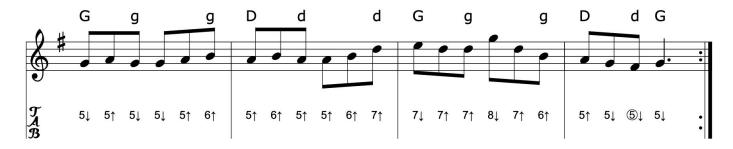


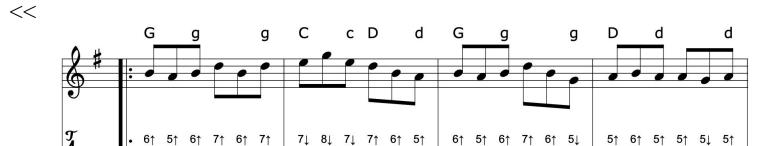


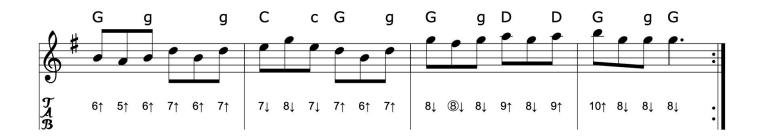
The Kesh

Jig





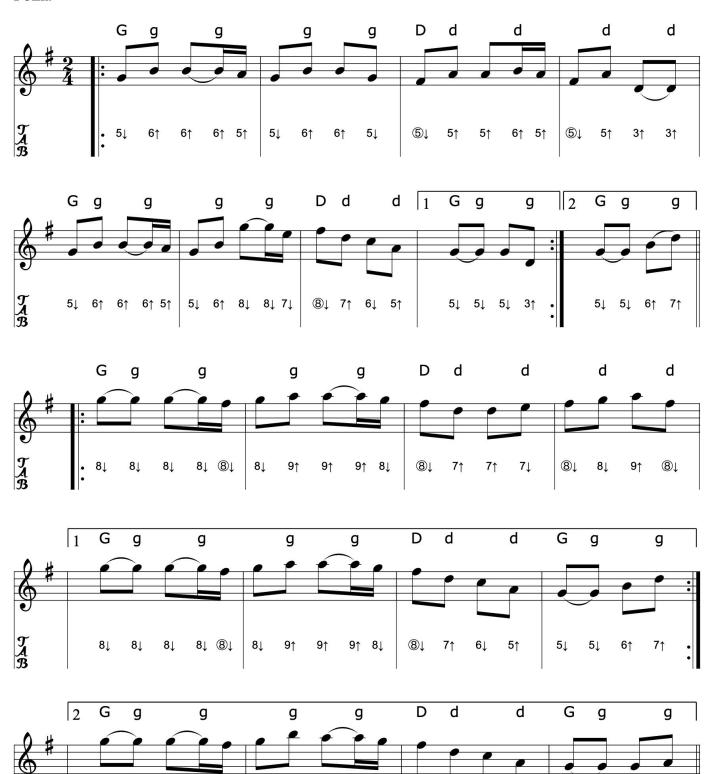




The Knocknaboul

Polka

<<



5↓

5↓

5↑

5↓

5↑

7↑

8↓ ®↓

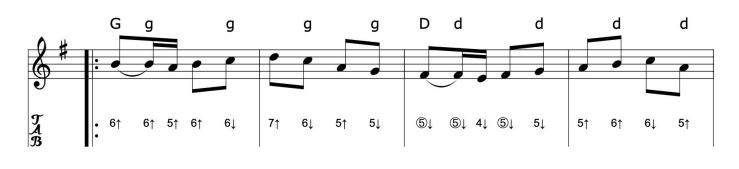
8↓

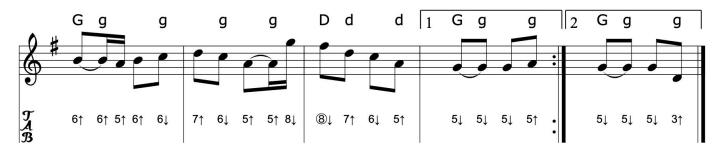
10↑

8↓

8↓

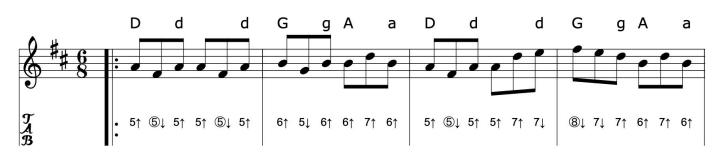
Traditional Irish B/C Box Bass and Chord Tunes Transcriptions

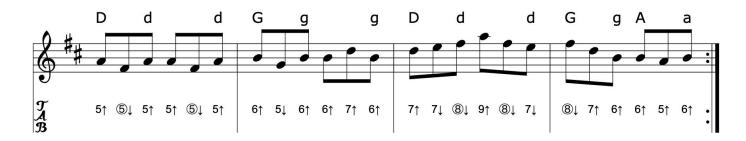


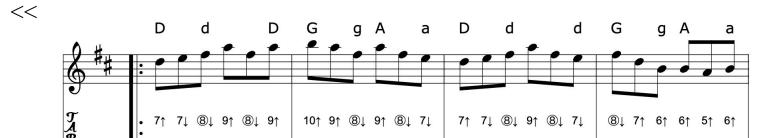


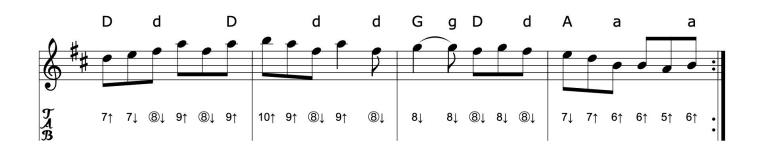
The Lark In The Morning

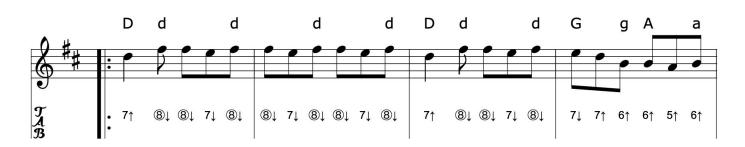
Jig

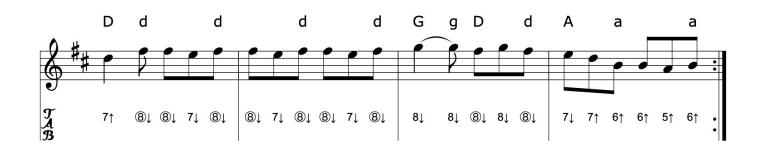


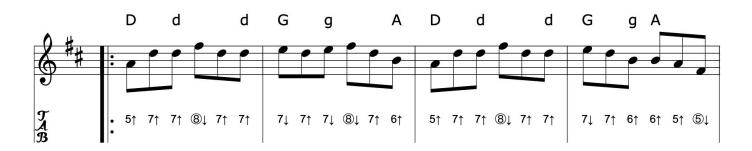


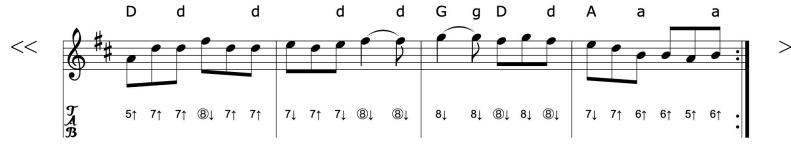






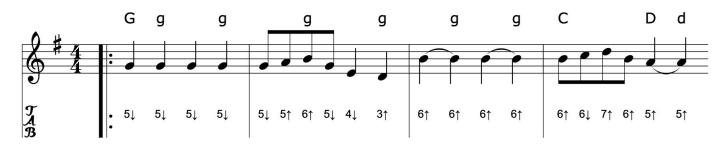


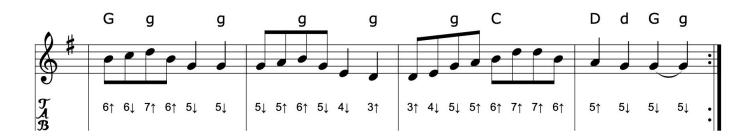


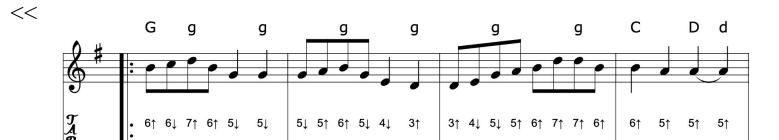


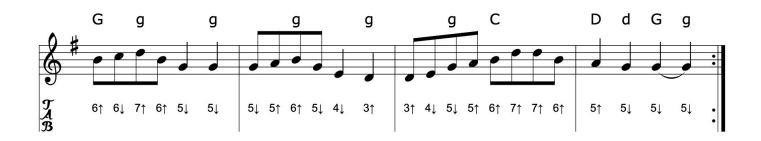
Lucy Farr's

Barndance



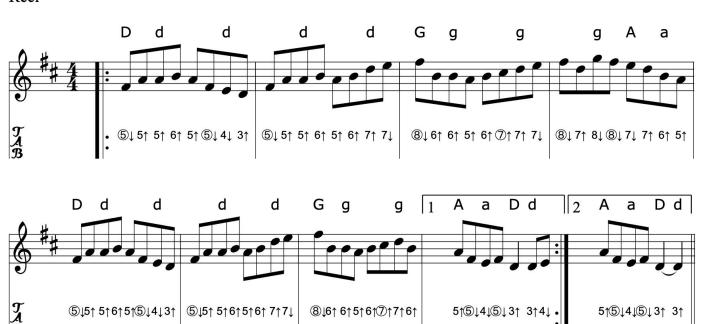


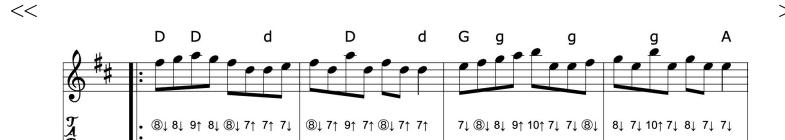


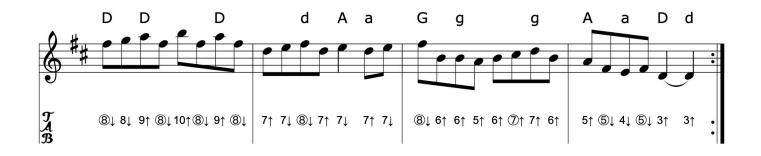


The Maid Behind The Bar

Reel

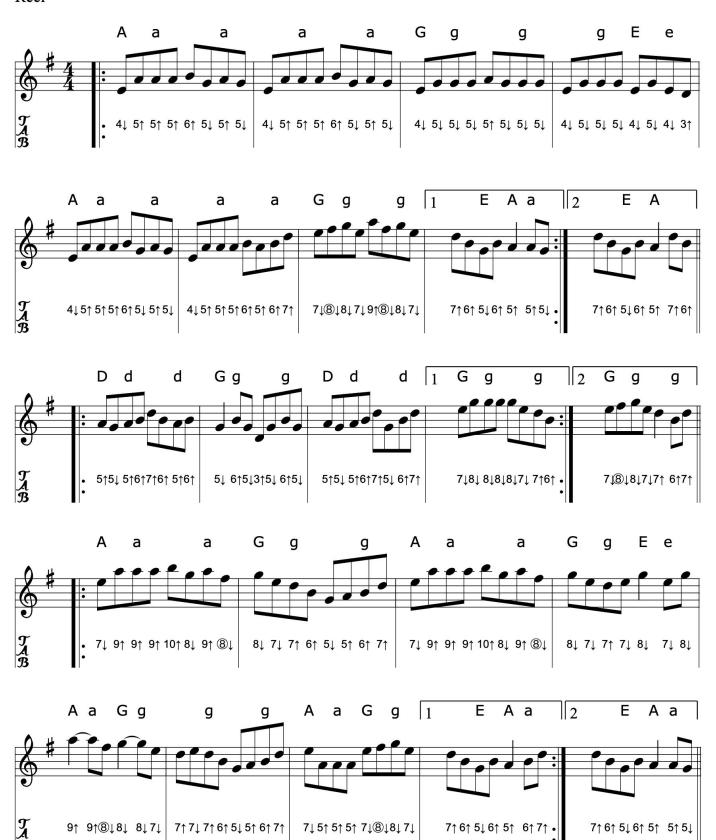






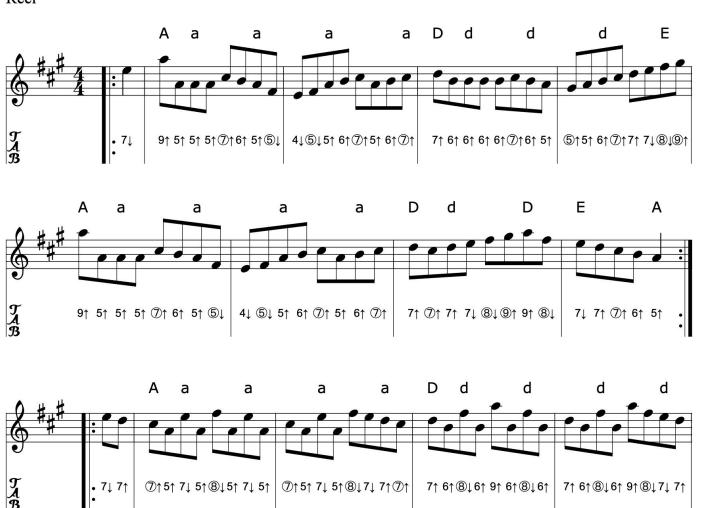
The Maid Of Mount Kisco

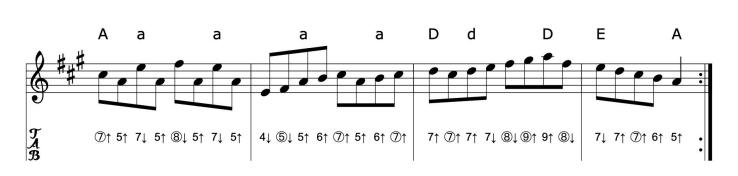
Reel



The Mason's Apron

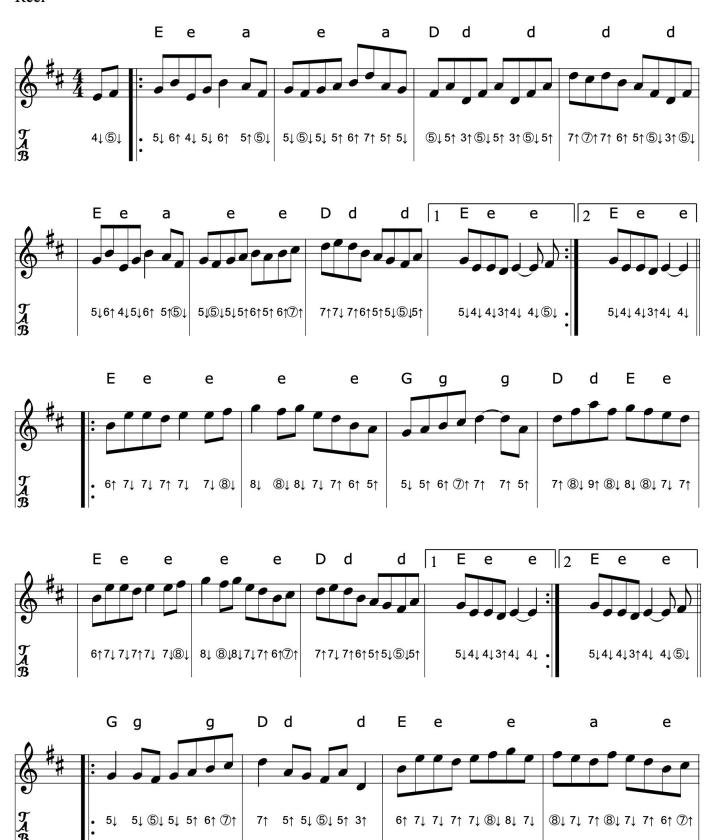
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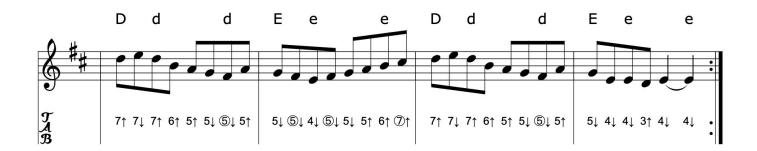


Mayor Harrison's Fedora

Reel



Traditional Irish B/C Box Bass and Chord Tunes Transcriptions



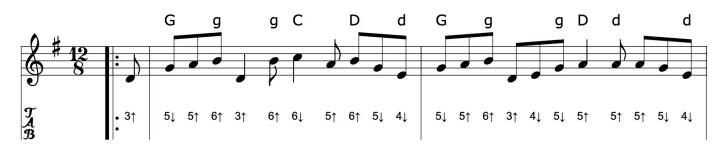
Memories Of Ballymote

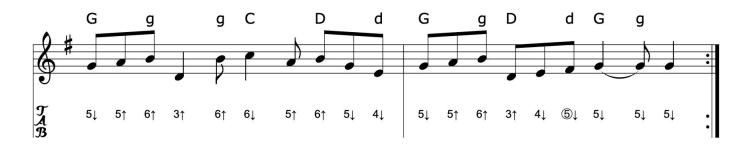
Polka

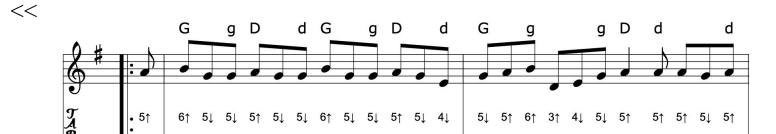


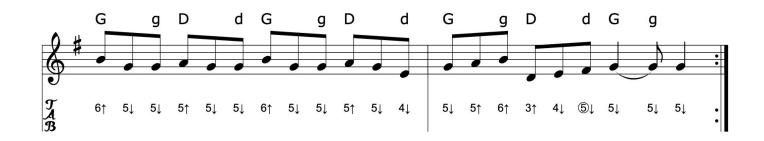
Merrily Kissed the Quaker's Wife

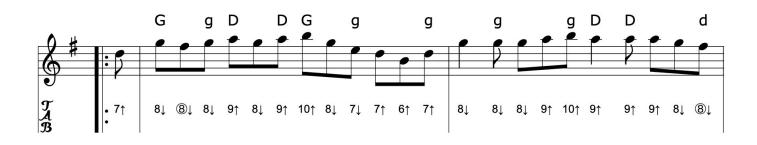
Slide

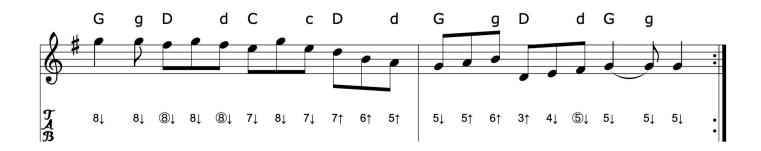






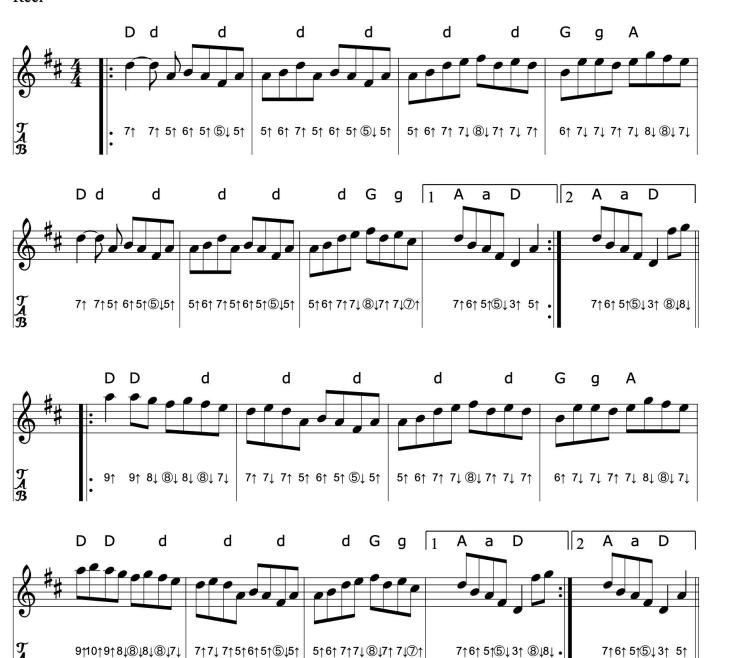






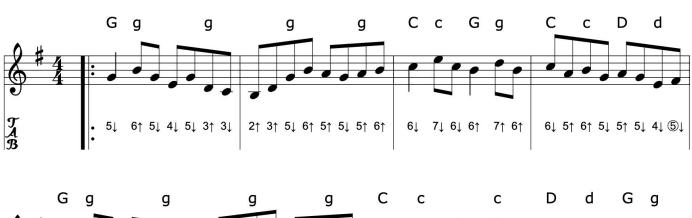
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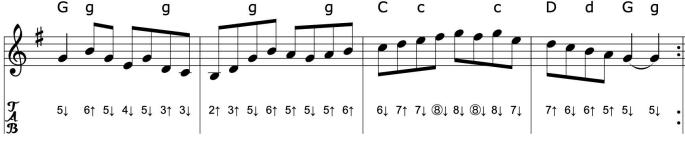
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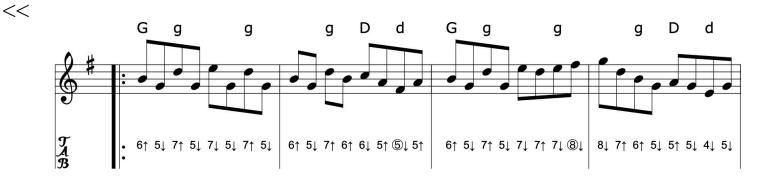


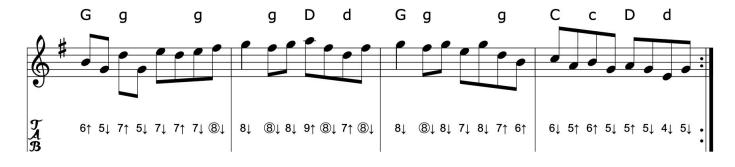
Music In The Glen

Reel



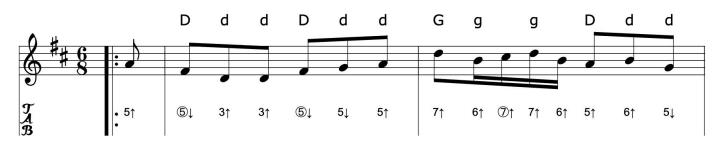


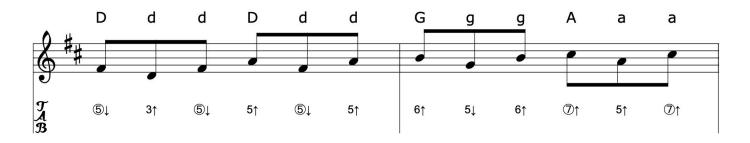


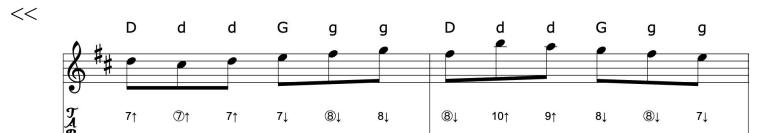


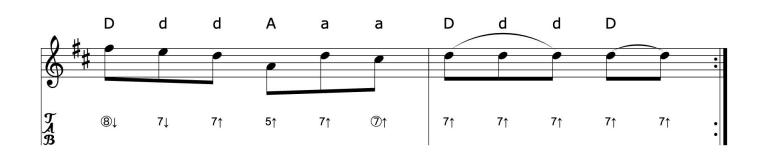
One Seventy Four (O'Carolan)

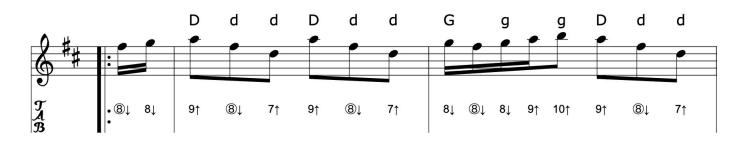
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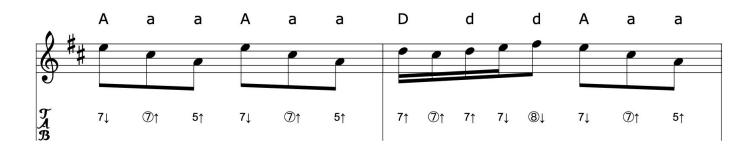


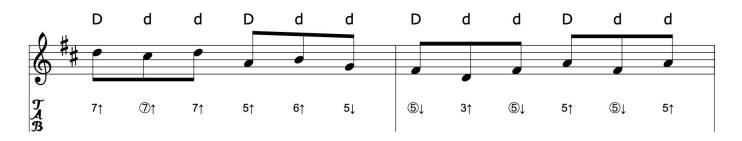


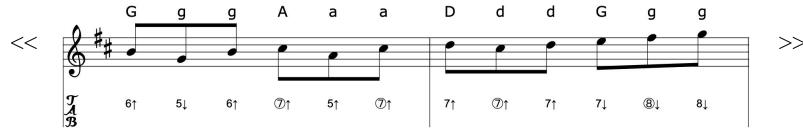


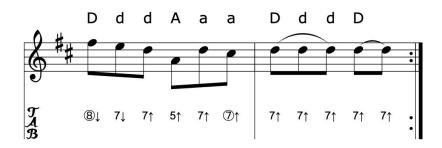






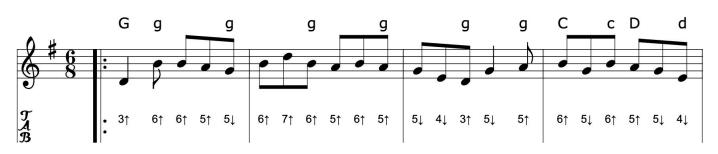


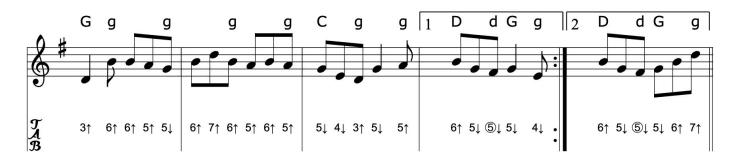




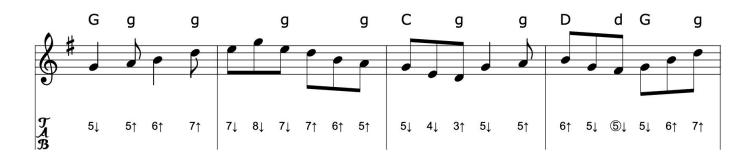
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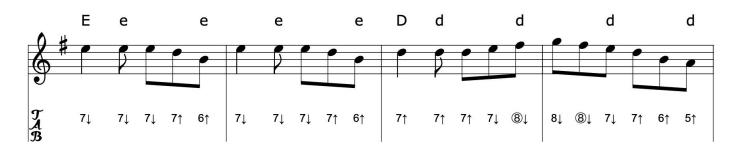
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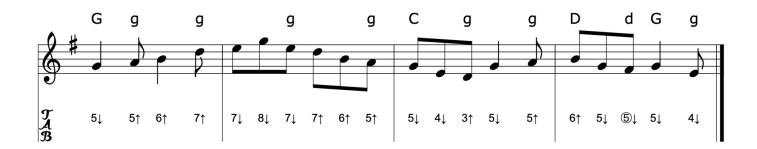






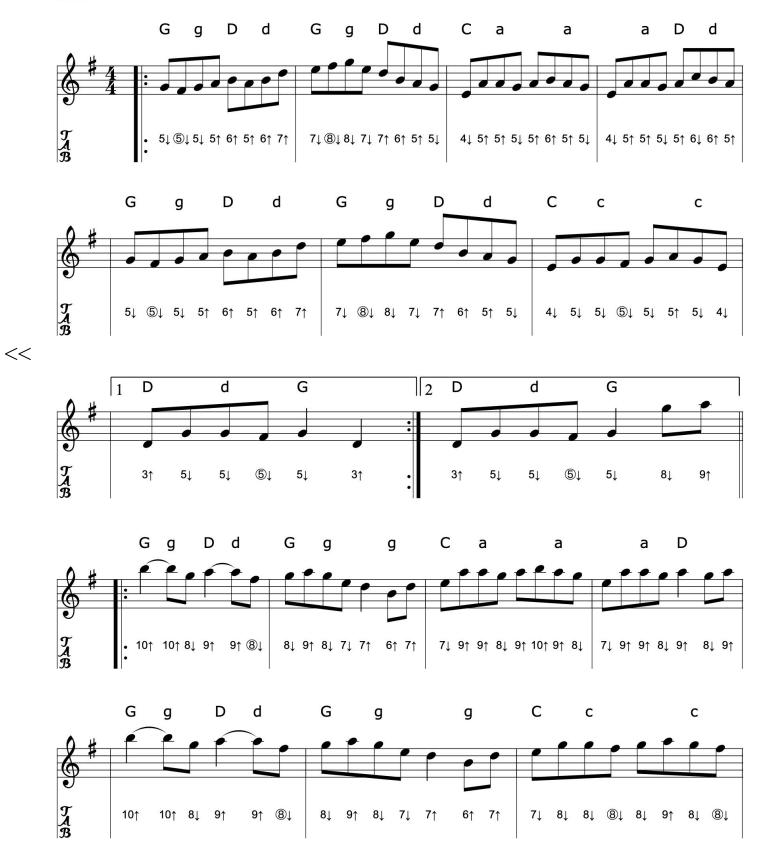


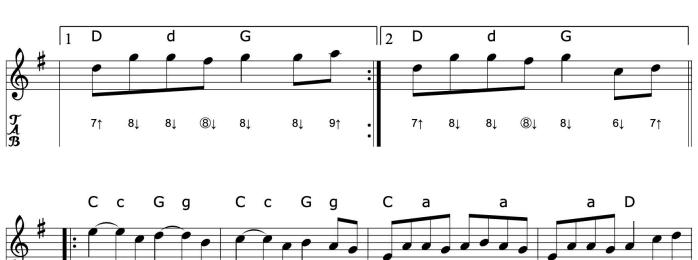
Traditional Irish B/C Box Bass and Chord Tunes Transcriptions

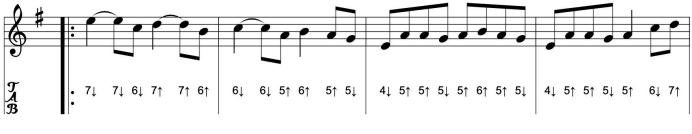


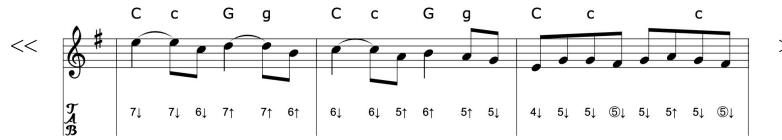
Over The Moor To Maggie

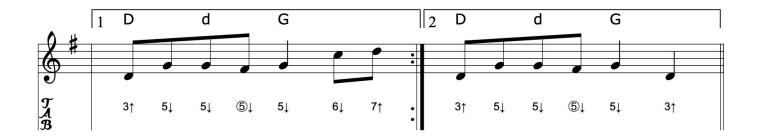
Reel





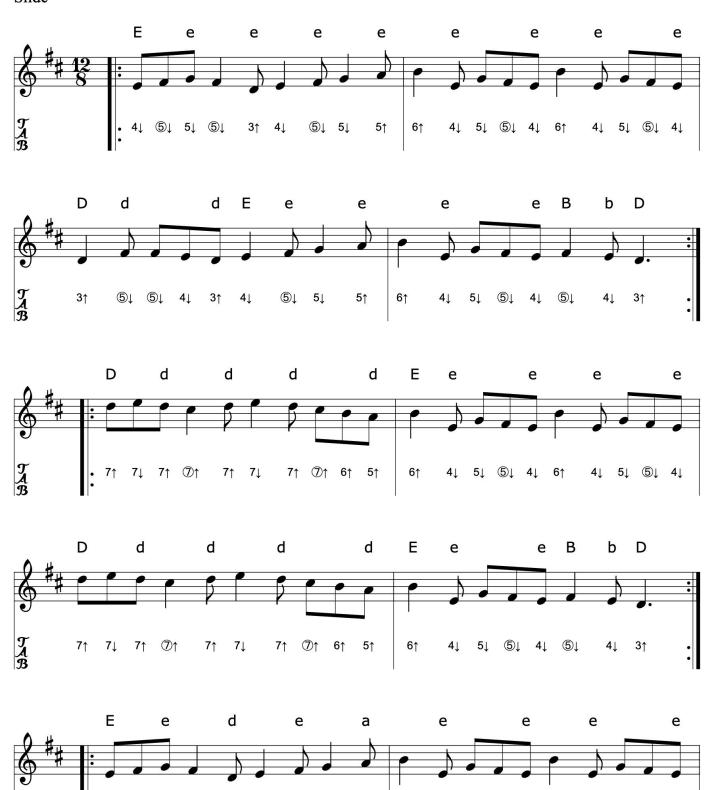




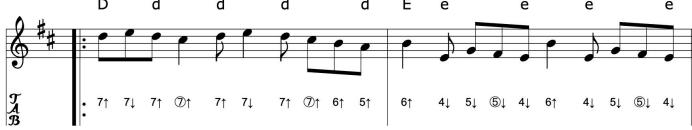


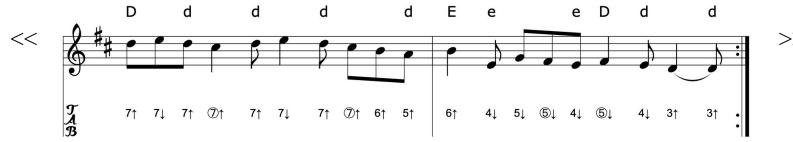
Paddy Cronin's Slide

Slide

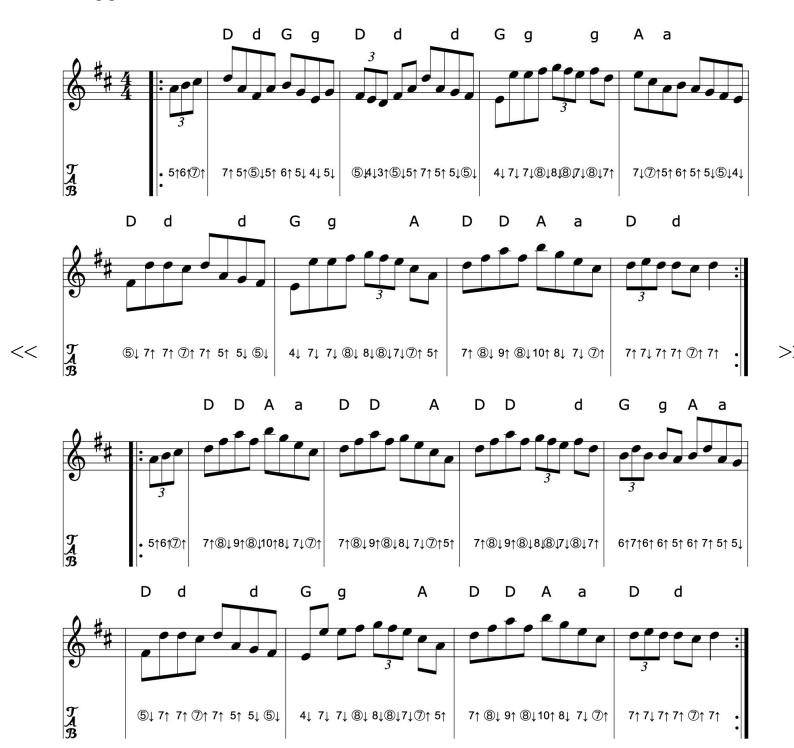








The Pleasures Of Hope

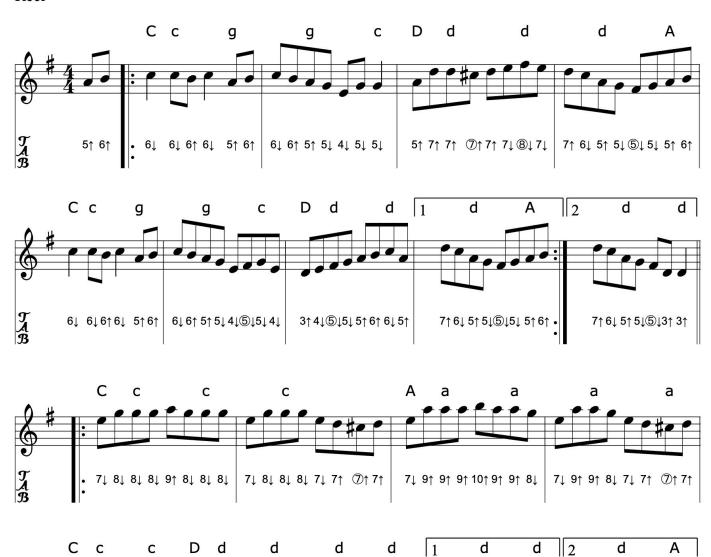


Rakish Paddy

Reel

<<

7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 |



9↑8↓8↓7↓8↓7↑7↓ ⑦↑

7↑6↑5↑5↓\$\J3↑3↑ •

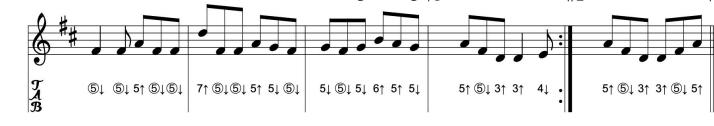
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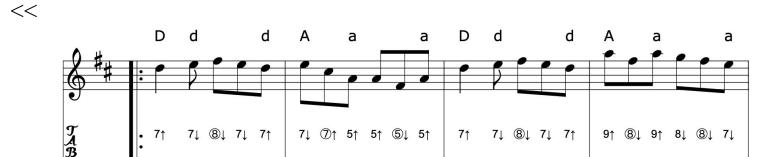
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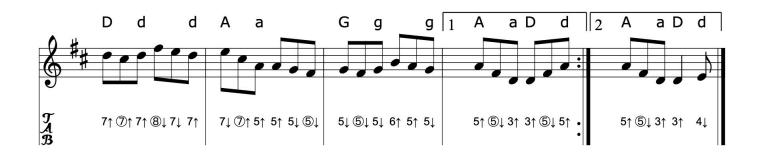
The Rambling Pitchfork

Jig



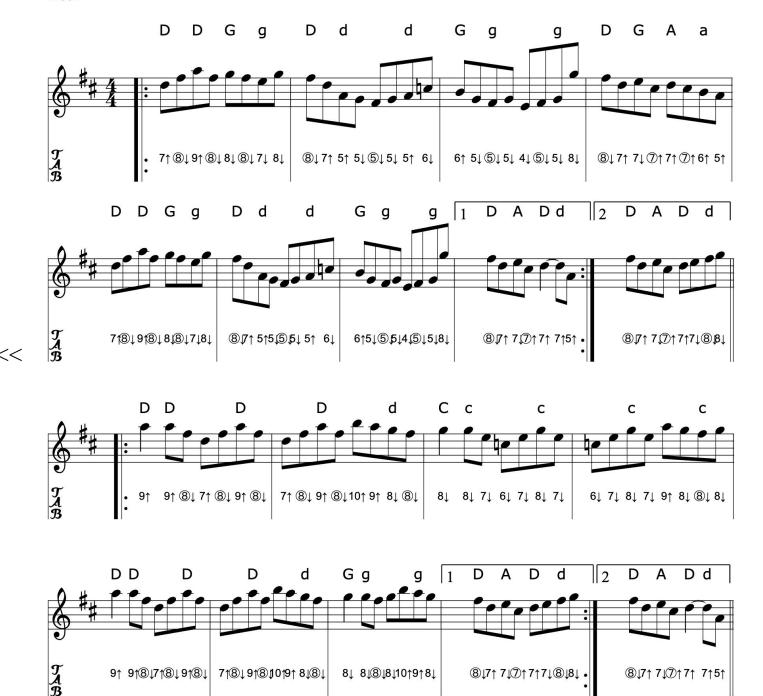




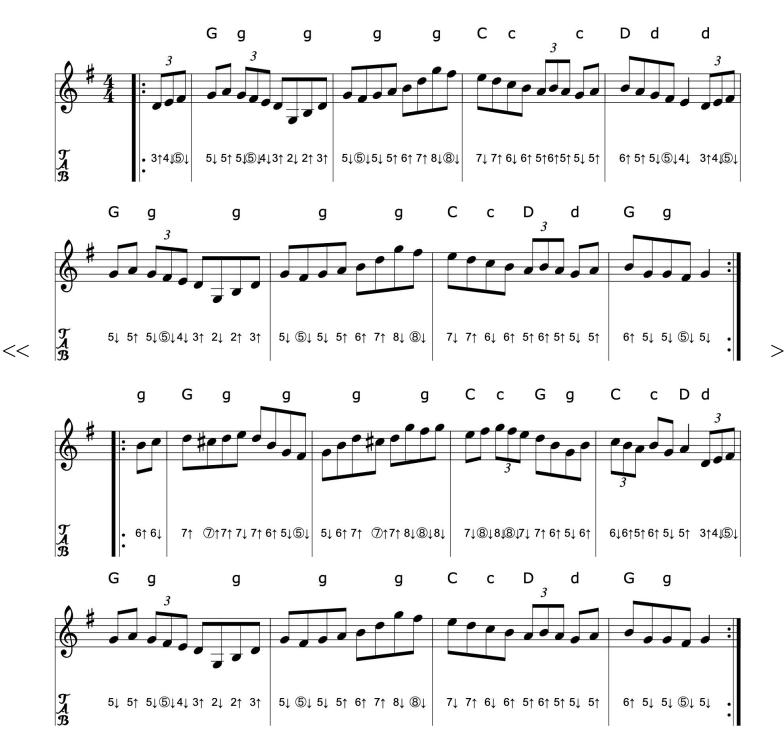


The Scholar

Reel

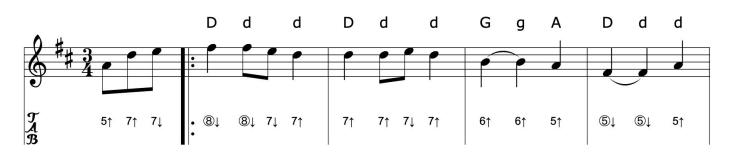


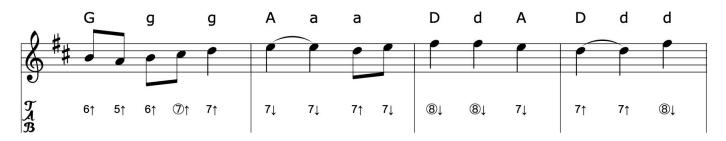
Sherlock's

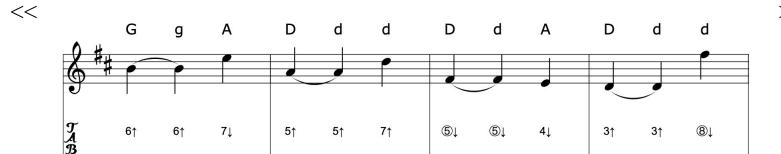


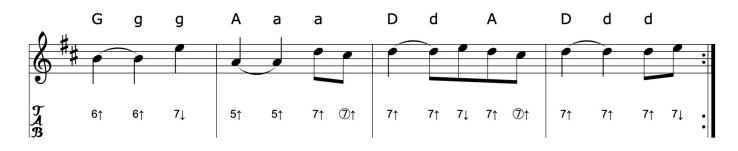
Sí Beag Sí Mór (O'Carolan)

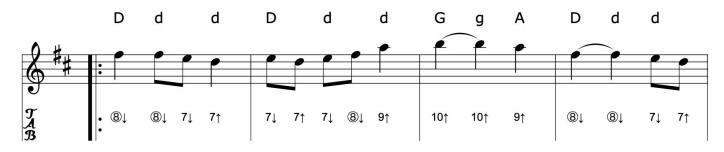
Waltz

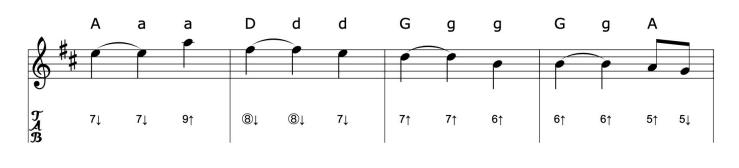


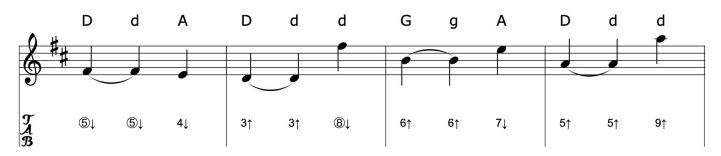


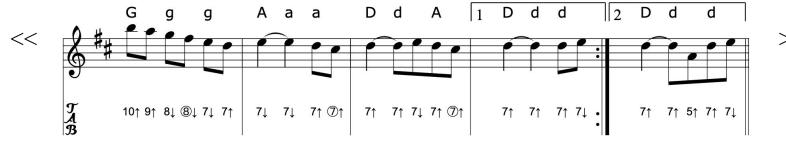










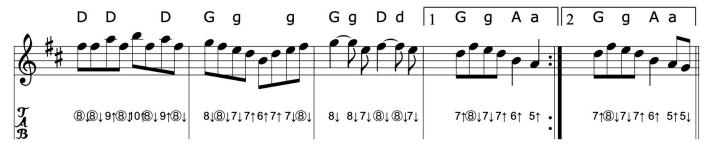


The Silver Spear

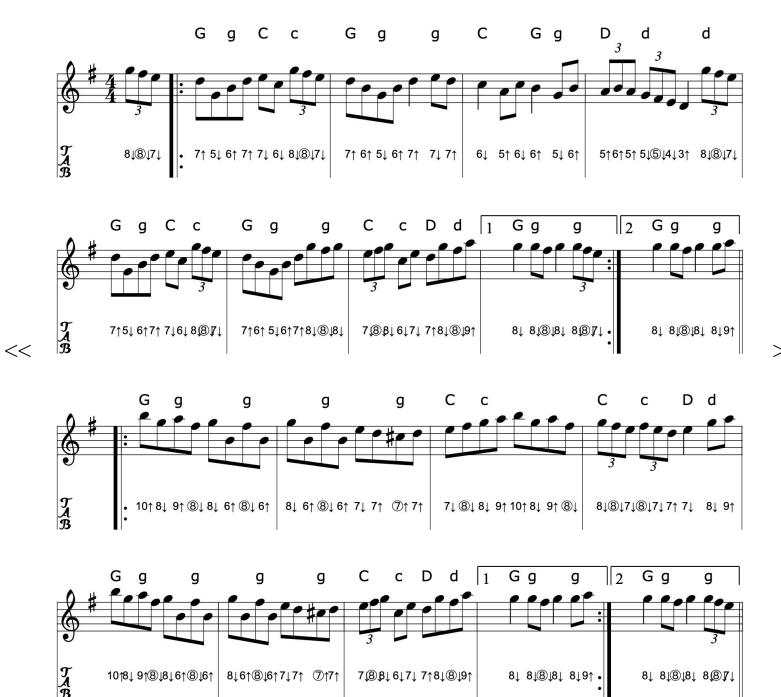
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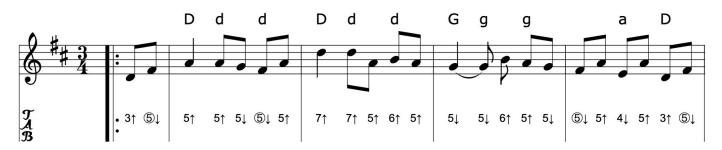


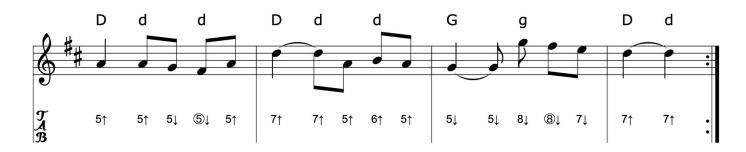
The Smell of the Bog

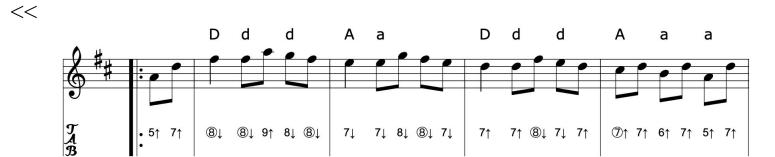


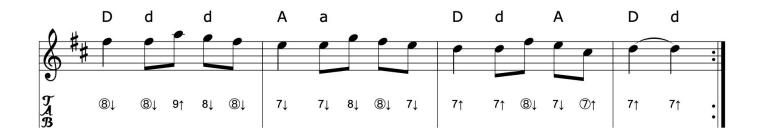
Sonny Brogan's

Mazurka



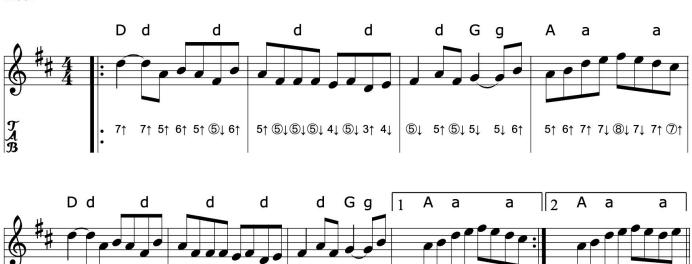


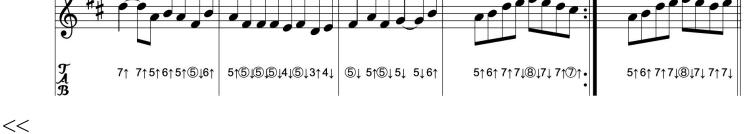


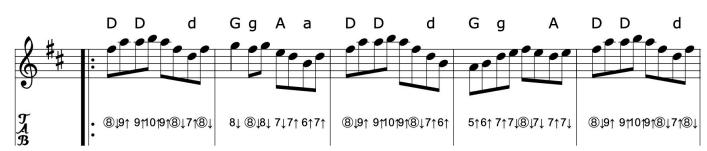


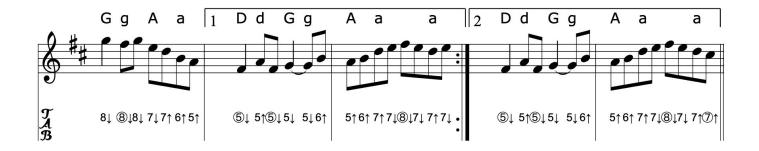
Speed The Plough

Reel

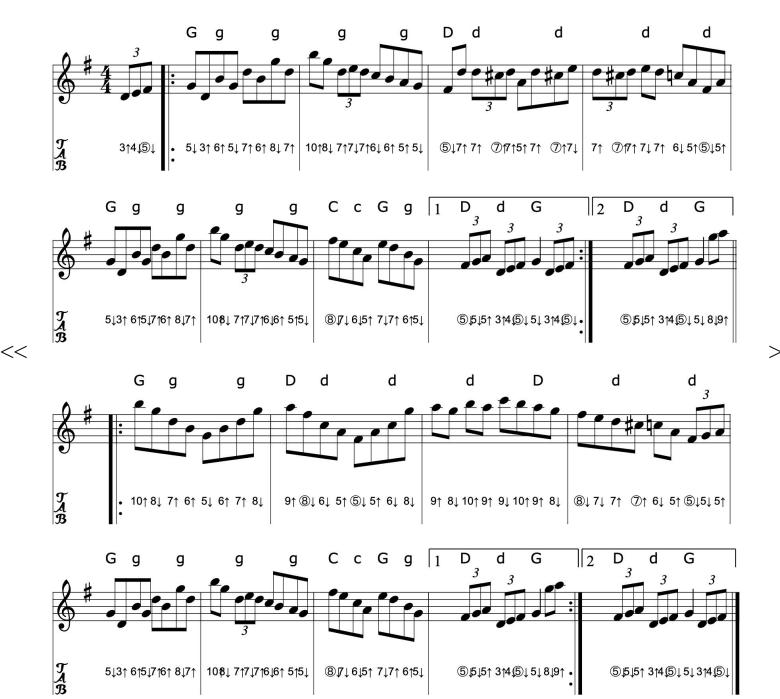




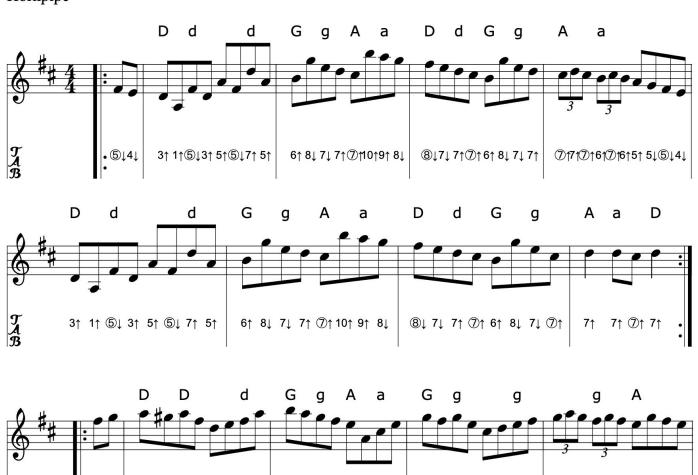




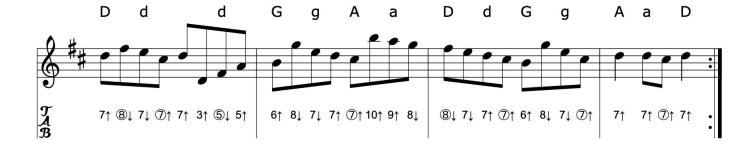
Spellan The Fiddler



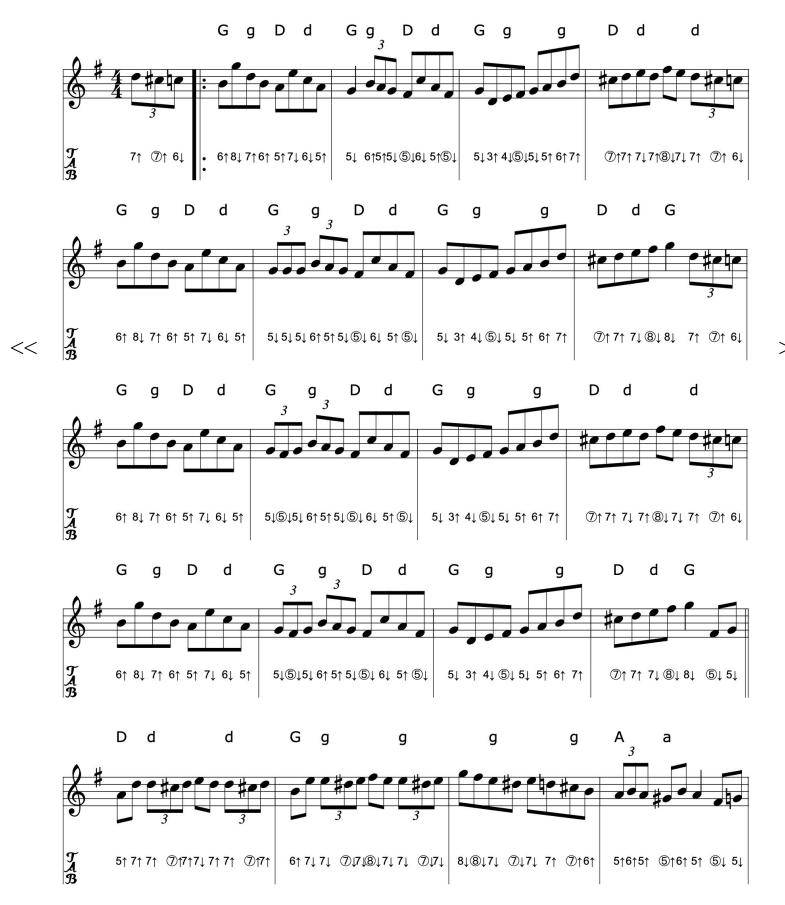
The Tailor's Twist

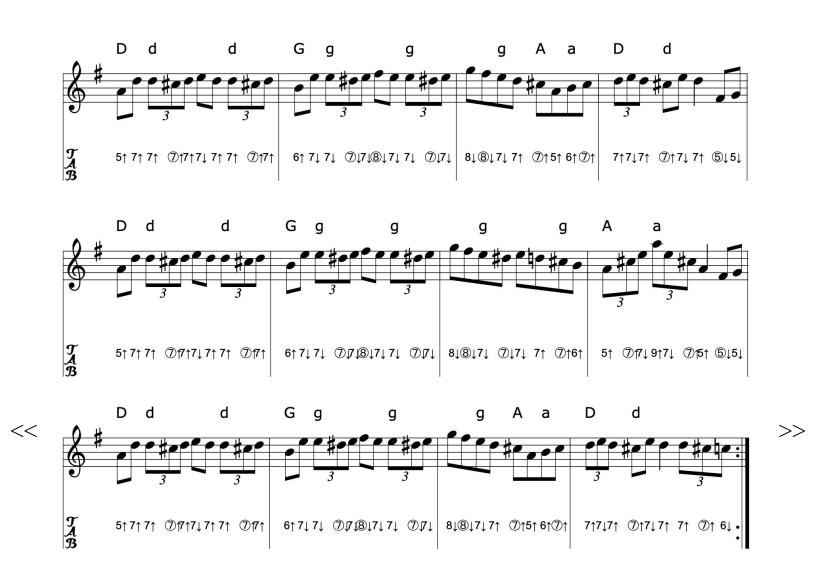




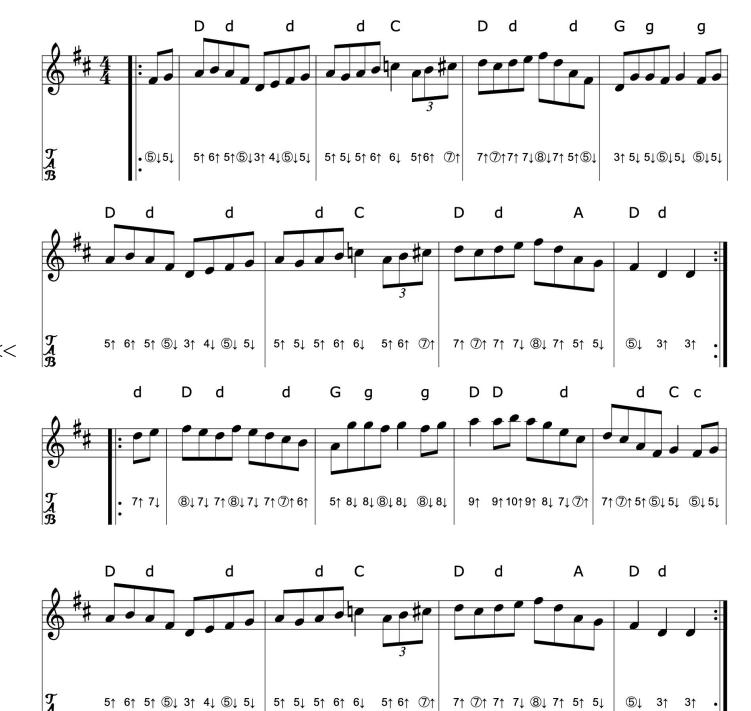


The Thames





The Wicklow



Index

Alexander's	1
The Banshee	2
The Boys Of Bluehill	3
The Cameronian	4
The Cat Rambles To The Child's Saucepan	5
The Chaffpool Post	6
Cock O' The North	7
Cooley's	8
Cronin's	9
Donnybrook Fair	10
Dunphy's	11
The Factory Smoke	12
Fanny Power (O'Carolan)	13
The Flowers Of Spring	15
Forde's	16
Going to the Well for Water	17
The Green Fields Of Rossbeigh	19
The Humours Of Castlecomer	20
If I Had A Wife	21
Jerry's Beaver Hat	22
John Kelly's Concertina	23
John Ryan's	24
The Kesh	25
The Knocknaboul	26
The Lark In The Morning	28
Lucy Farr's	30
The Maid Behind The Bar	31
The Maid Of Mount Kisco	32
The Mason's Apron	33
Mayor Harrison's Fedora	34
Memories Of Ballymote	36
Merrily Kissed the Quaker's Wife	37

The Merry Blacksmith	39
Music In The Glen	40
One Seventy Four (O'Carolan)	41
Out On The Ocean	43
Over The Moor To Maggie	45
Paddy Cronin's Slide	47
The Pleasures Of Hope	49
Rakish Paddy	50
The Rambling Pitchfork	51
The Scholar	52
Sherlock's	53
Sí Beag Sí Mór (O'Carolan)	54
The Silver Spear	56
The Smell of the Bog	57
Sonny Brogan's	58
Speed The Plough	59
Spellan The Fiddler	60
The Tailor's Twist	61
The Thames	62
The Wicklow	64



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