

# Braes of Busbie

The musical score for "Braes of Busbie" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four sections, each with first and second endings. The notes are written in a treble clef.

**Section A:** Am E7 Am

**Section B:** 1. E7 Am 2. E7 Am Am

**Section C:** E7 Am 1. E7 Am 2. E7 Am Am E7

**Section D:** Am 1. E7 Am 2. E7 Am 1. Am E7 Am

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"Braes of Busbie", also known as "Braes of Bushbie", "The Breeze of Busbey" or "Duke of Sutherland's March" is a Scottish slow march in 4/4 time or Strathspey in A Dorian (Aird, O'Farrell), G Minor (Cole, Hardie), G Dorian (Cranford). The parts are played ABC (Cole, Hardy), AABBCC (O'Farrell), ABABCCD (Howe) or AABBCCD (Cranford).

In lowland Scots dialect, a brae is a hillside. Busby is a district in Renfrewshire, Scotland.

The melody may have been composed by John Bowie and first appears in his *Collection* (1789).

A note in Nathaniel Gow's **Sixth Collection** (1822) says that it was favorite of Niel Gow's and that it is "Old". In Ireland, Co. Leitrim piper and fiddler Stephen Grier entered the tune, set as a reel, in Book 2 of his c. 1883 music manuscript collection as "Breeze of Busbey". Reworked as "Dowd's Favorite", the reel was famously recorded by Sligo/New York City fiddler Michael Coleman. Piper Willie Clancy had a reel time setting of the tune, called "Braes of Busby" in a major tonality.

The version given here is from Aird.

It was printed in Aird's **Selection of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs, vol. 6** (1803), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Cranford's **Jerry Holland's Collection of Fiddle Tunes** (1995), Gow's **Sixth Collection of Strathspeys, Reels and Slow Tunes** (1822), Hardie's **Caledonian Companion** (1992), Henderson's **Flowers of Scottish Melody** (1935), Howe's **1000 Jigs and Reels** (1867), McFadyen's **Repository of Scots and Irish Airs, vol. 1** (c. 1795), O'Farrell's **Pocket Companion, vol. 2** (c. 1806), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883)(strathspey setting).

It was recorded by Jordi Savall on **The Celtic Viol. II** (2010) and Jerry O'Sullivan on **O'Sullivan meets O'Farrell** (2005).