
"Da Day Dawn", also known as "The Day Daywen" or "The Day o' Dawie" is a Shetland air in 4/4 time and A Minor. This is another seasonal Shetland fiddle tune - this being played on New Year's and "Christmas Day i' da Mornin", obviously, on Christmas Day.

Cooke (1986) describes that it was the custom of certain Shetland fiddlers to play this tune in the house early on New Year's morning. He finds that records of tunes with names similar to 'Day Dawns' go back to the beginning of the 16th century in Scotland and the reign of James IV with Dunbar's mention of 'Now the Day Dawis' and 'the jolly day now dawns' in his poem 'To the Merchants of Edinburgh'. Several versions of the early ballads beginning with the words 'the day dawns' and closing with each stanza with 'the night is near gone' exist, and the structure was "well-known to common minstrels". Settings of music to "Day Dawns" were published in 1822 by Hibbert and in a manuscript by Hoseason.

John Irvine has recounted how he learned 'The Day o'Dawie' from the singing of an old friend and said that it was the custom for parties of men to go around the island singing the tune (though he never heard words to it – presumably his informant 'diddled' it over to him). ("Diddling" refers to the largely Celtic practice of making "mouth music" and singing what is usually an instrumental tune with nonsense syllables - sometimes called "diddly-diddly" music.)

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Cooke's **The Fiddle Tradition of the Shetland Isles** (1986) and Martin's **Traditional Scottish Fiddling** (2002).

It was recorded by Tom Anderson and Aly Bain on **The Silver Bow**, Aly Bain and Ale Möller on **Fully Rigged** and Boys of the Lough on **Live**.