

# Dunkeld House

Niel Gow

The musical score for "Dunkeld House" by Niel Gow is presented in six staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The score includes two main sections, A and B, and various chord markings.

**Staff 1:** Section A, Chords: Em, B7. The melody begins with a repeat sign and a fermata over the first measure.

**Staff 2:** Chords: Em, B7, Em, Em. This staff includes a first ending (marked 1) and a second ending (marked 2).

**Staff 3:** Section B, Chords: Em, B7. This staff features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment.

**Staff 4:** Chords: Em, B7, Em. Continues the eighth-note accompaniment.

**Staff 5:** Chords: B7, Em. Continues the eighth-note accompaniment.

**Staff 6:** Chords: B7, Em. Continues the eighth-note accompaniment and concludes with a double bar line.

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"Dunkeld House", also known as "Frogs' Frolic" or "Jackson's Rowly Powly" is a Scottish jig in E Minor. The parts are played AAB (Gow, Hunter, Jones), AABB (Köhlers') or AABB' (Johnson).

It was composed by the famous Scots fiddler-composer Niel Gow (1727-1807) around the 1770's for his patron John Murray, the Duke of Atholl - Dunkeld House in Perthshire was one of his seats and lies "no more than a stone's throw" from Inver, the birthplace of the great fiddler. Gow's remains repose in the churchyard of Little Dunkeld.

It was first published in Gow's **First Collection of Niel Gow's Reels** (1784). The name Dunkeld means the 'fort of the Caledonians' and refers to the people that dominated the central lowlands of Scotland during the time of the Romans.

Dunkeld has been much fought over. It was raided by Vikings in 903 and by Malcolm of Moray in 1027; it was the site of MacBeth's victory over Crinan and Maldred in 1045. In 1689 Captain Munro massacred an army of Highland supporters of James VII there.

Dunkeld House itself was a mansion built by Sir William Bruce in 1676-84 for the 1st Marquis of Atholl. The house survived until 1827 when it was demolished to make room for a neo-Gothic structure that was never completed.

The version known as "Frogs' Frolic" is very similar, particularly in the A part and is probably "Dunkeld House" amended by memory lapses of players over the years. Unlike "Frogs' Frolic", the B part is a square 16 measures long.

The tune was printed in Carlin's **The Gow Collection** (1986), Collinson's **The Traditional and National Music of Scotland** (1966), Gow's **The First Collection of Niel Gow's Reels** (1784) (revised 1801), Hardie's **Caledonian Companion** (1992), Johnson's **Scottish Fiddle Music in the 18th Century** (1984), Jones' **Complete Tutor for the Violin** (c. 1815), Köhlers' **Violin Repository, Book 2** (1881-1885) and Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883),

It was recorded by Bonnie Rideout on **Scottish Fire** (2000).