

Flowers of Edinburgh

In Gaelic *Blata Duin-Eudain*, this is a widely known reel / hornpipe played by both Scottish, Irish and American fiddlers. Bayard collected it in Pennsylvania for **Hill Country Tunes**. In the old days the city of Edinburgh was less famous for its greenery than for the smoke and bad stench pervading the Old Town which gave rise to its nickname, "Auld Reekie". Hence, one interpretation of the title of this dance views it as a kind of euphemism for the situation. Some sources prefer to relate the title to the young ladies of the city. Gow and others credit composition of the melody to James Oswald. Its earliest appearance in print is in Oswald's collection **Curious Collection of Scots Tunes** (vol. II, sometimes dated 1744), which appeared in London and contained the "Flowers" tune as a "crude" song entitled "My love's bonny when she smiles on me."

Fenig's All-Stars play a good version with hammered dulcimer. It was also recorded by Aly Bain, Abby Newton and Alasdair Fraser.

I play this tune in a medley with one or more of the following:

- The Boys of Wexford
- Gary Owen
- The Irish Washerwoman
- Scotland the Brave

All of which are in this section.