

Forneth House

The musical score for "Forneth House" is written in D Major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and a 'D' chord. The second staff has a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.), with a boxed 'B' at the end. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, D, G, A7, D, G, A7, D, D, A7, G, D, A7, D, A7, D, A7, D, A7, D.

"Forneth House", also known as "Forneth House" or "Mrs. Crawford's Favorite" is a Scottish slow air or strathspey in 4/4 time and D Major. The parts are played AAB. The tune was first published twice by Robert Petrie, originally in his **First Collection** (1790) under the title "Forneth House" and again, this time claimed as his own composition in the **Third Collection** (1800). This was perhaps due to its appearance the same year in Nathaniel Gow's **Fourth Collection** (1800) where the melody appeared in a slightly different setting as "Mrs. Crawford's Favourite Strathspey" with no attribution. The Gows must have known it was composed by Petrie, for the London branch of the Gow publishing family (Nathaniel's brothers Andrew and John) used the "Forneth House" title earlier in their **Collection of Slow Airs** (c. 1795). Poet Robert Tannahill (1774-1810) composed a song to the "Forneth House" melody, beginning "Now Winter, wi' his cloudy brow, is far ayont yon mountains."

In 1882-4, Frances Groome's Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland described Forneth like this:

Forneth, a hamlet in Clunie parish, NE Perthshire, 6 miles W by S of Blairgowrie, under which it has a post office. Forneth House, ½ mile nearer Blairgowrie, crowns a fine elevation on the NW bank of the loch of Clunie and commands a beautiful prospect of the lake, its islet and surrounding scenes.

It was printed in John Gow's **A Favorite Collection of Slow Airs, Strathspeys and Reels** (c. 1804), Lerwick's **The Kilted Fiddler** (1985) and Petrie's **Third Collection of Strathspey Reels and Country Dances** (1790).

It was recorded by Abby Newton on **Castles, Kirks and Caves** (2001).

Some phrases in this tune remind me of "Miss Admiral Gordon's Strathspey".