

The Hen's March to the Midden

The musical score is written in D Major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features two main sections, A and B. Section A is an 8-measure phrase starting with a repeat sign. Section B is a 16-measure phrase, also starting with a repeat sign. The score includes various chord symbols such as D, G, A7, and E7, and uses musical notation like eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests to represent the melody.

"The Hen's March to the Midden", also known as "The Cackling of the Hens", "The Duck's in the Midden", "The Hen's Concert", "Hen's March", "Major Hen's March" or "Tick Tick Tickalairy" is a Scottish (originally), Shetland, English and Irish march or novelty tune in 4/4 time and D Major. The parts are played AB (Hunter), AAB (Cooke), AAB (Milne), ABB (Alburger, Phillips), AABB (Johnson) or AABB' (Martin).

It is included in the earliest Scottish collection - Robert Bremner's (c. 1713-1789) **A Collection of Airs and Marches for Two Violins or German Flutes** (c. 1756-1761).

Paul Wells finds the tune in the United States in a music manuscript from New England, c. 1823, under the title "Cacklin' Hen", in an 1834 flute tutor published in Albany as "Major Hen's March" and in a guitar tutor of 1863 by the 19th century publisher Elias Howe of Boston as "The Hen's March".

It was printed in Alburger's **Scottish Fiddlers and Their Music** (1983) (appears as "The Hen's March"), Bruce & Stokoe's **Northumbrian Minstrelsy** (1882), Cooke's **The Fiddle Tradition of the Shetland Isles** (1986), Johnson's **Scottish Fiddle Music in the 18th Century** (1983), Martin's *Ceol na Fidhle, vol. 1* (1991), Milne's **Middleton's Selection of Strathspeys, Reels &c. for the Violin** (1870) and Phillips' **Fiddlecase Tunebook: British Isles** (1989).

It was recorded by Dave Swarbrick.