

The High Level Hornpipe

James Hill

The musical score for "The High Level Hornpipe" by James Hill is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The piece consists of 24 measures, organized into eight staves. The notation includes various chords, triplets, and first/second endings.

Staff 1 (Measures 1-3): Chords G and D7. Measure 3 contains a triplet of eighth notes.

Staff 2 (Measures 4-6): Chord G. Measure 6 contains a triplet of eighth notes.

Staff 3 (Measures 7-9): Chords C, G, and G. Measures 8 and 9 are part of a first ending.

Staff 4 (Measures 10-12): Chords D and G. Measures 11 and 12 contain triplets of eighth notes.

Staff 5 (Measures 13-15): Chord A.

Staff 6 (Measures 16-17): Chords D, A, D, and G. Measure 17 contains a triplet of eighth notes.

Staff 7 (Measures 18-23): Chords D and G.

Staff 8 (Measures 24-26): Chords C, D, G, and G. Measures 25 and 26 are part of a first ending.

"The High Level Hornpipe" also known as "High Level Bridge Hornpipe", "Highland Hornpipe", "Louis Quinn's" and "Velocipede Hornpipe" is known in Scotland, England, Ireland, Canada and America.

It was composed by 19th century fiddler James Hill (c. 1815–c. 1860), a noted composer of hornpipes who lived in Gateshead, Northumberland, England (near Newcastle), though born in Dundee, Scotland. Hill also composed "The Hawk" and "The Newcastle Hornpipe" both in this collection. The piece is named after Newcastle's famous bridge across the River Tyne linking Newcastle and Gateshead, the first important rail crossing in Britain designed to carry more than two tracks. It was begun in 1846, opened in 1849 and replaced a bridge that had been built in 1781. It was designed by Robert Stephenson, based on a series of cast iron bowstring arches springing from tall stone piers; each of the six main spans stretched for 125 feet, the length of the whole being 1,372 feet, well over a quarter of a mile. Queen Victoria herself performed the opening ceremonies. A two-tier structure, it allowed three railway lines to be carried on the upper deck, while pedestrians, horses and carriages travelled on the road beneath.

It was printed in Howe's **1000 Jigs and Reels** (1867), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 2**, Laybourn's **Köhler's Violin Repository, vol. 1** (1881), Skinner's **Harp and Claymore** (1904), Williamson's **English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Fiddle Tunes** (1976).

It was recorded by Michael Coleman, The High Level Ranters and others.

I learned it from Williamson's book.