

## The Highlander's Farewell to Ireland

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It is divided into sections A, B, C, and D. Section A (first staff) has chords Am, Em7, Am, Em7, D. Section B (second and third staves) has chords Am, Em7, D, Em7, Am, Em7, D. Section C (fourth staff) has chords Am, G, Am, and a first ending bracket over Em7, G, D. Section D (fifth and sixth staves) has chords Em7, G, D, Am, Em7, Am. The final staff has chords Em7, G, Am.

"The Highlander's Farewell to Ireland", also known as "The Highland Watch's Farewell to Ireland" is a Scottish strathspey in A Dorian. The parts are played AAB (Gow, Skye), AABB (Glen, S. Johnson), AA'BB (Phillips), ABCCDD (Athole), AABBCDD (Kerr), AABBCDDDEE (Johnson) or AABBCDDEEFGGHH (McGlashan, Ross).

This is a strathspey composed for the fiddle in imitation of bagpipe style. John Glen (1891) finds the

earliest printing of the tune in Neil Stewart's 1761 collection, although it also appears in the 1768

**Gillespie Manuscript** of Perth. It was also entered into the 1770 music manuscript collection of

Peeblesshire musician James Ballantine. Originally published with two parts, it was a favorite piece

for variation sets. For example, it appears in the 1780 Robert Ross collection in 6 parts – a similar

version was recorded by Cape Breton fiddler Bill Lamey in the 1950's. It is similar to Galax, Va.,

fiddler Emmett Lundy's (1864–1953) old-time version known as "Highlander's Farewell".

It was printed in Glen's **Collection of Scottish Dance Music, vol. 1** (1891), Gow's **Complete**

**Repository, Part 2** (1802), Johnson's **Scottish Fiddle Music in the 18th Century** (1984), S. Johnson's

**Kitchen Musician No. 20: A Twenty Year Anniversary Collection** (2003), Kerr's **Merry Melodies,**

**vol. 1** (c. 1880), MacDonald's **The Skye Collection** (1887), McGlashan's **Collection of Reels** (c.

1786), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Robert Ross's **Choice Collection**

**of Scots Reels** (1780) (as "The Highlander's Farewell") and Stewart-Robertson's **The Athole**

**Collection** (1884).

It was recorded by Tommy Peoples on **Tommy Peoples** (1976), Buddy MacMaster on **The Cape**

**Breton Tradition** (2003) and Wendy MacIsaac on **The 'Reel' Thing** (1994).