

Jamie Allen

Part A

G Am D7 C

Part B

G D7 G G G

Am D7 C G D7 G

"Jamie Allen", also known as "Jimmy Allen" or "Reel of Tullochgorum" is an English (Northumbrian), Scottish and American rant or country dance in 4/4 time and G major. The parts are played AABB.

Northumbrian musician Jamie Allen (c. 1734-1810) was a famous smallpipes player whose name is associated with this tune. Allen has been credited with devising improvements to the smallpipes, increasing their limited range of an octave with the addition of keys. Allen's father Will (1704-1779) was perhaps a pipemaker and was River Warden of the Coquet. His wife, Jimmy's mother, was a gypsy, and the elder Allen associated much with her folk. Son Jimmy (or Jamie) was the subject of two biographies, largely fanciful, and it is hard to determine the facts of his life. It is said he was at various times piper to the Duchess of Northumberland, that he enlisted in the army, and was a fugitive from justice. At any rate, he was highly regarded by his contemporaries as a musician who was thought to have played the Northumbrian smallpipes, Border pipes, and Union (uilleann) pipes.

The banjo version is a pretty close rendering of the tune. The B part takes some 5th position fingering up the neck with a few open strings thrown in to make it work.

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I learned this at our Monday night jam and Adam Hurt's playing.