

## The Lass o' Gowrie

The musical score for "The Lass o' Gowrie" is presented in a single system with five staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes first and second endings, and section markers A, B, and C. The first ending is marked with a box 'A' and a bracket above the staff. The second ending is marked with a box 'B' and a bracket above the staff. The section marker 'C' is placed above the staff at the beginning of the third staff. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

"The Lass o' Gowrie" is a march (2/4 time) or reel from Lowland Scotland and Northumberland, England. It is usually played in C major or D major.

Bayard states that it is a very well-known tune in the British Isles, descended from an air used as a reel, strathspey, and song melody and known usually by one of the alternate titles. Perlman (1996) remarks that it is "basically a simplified variant of the strathspey 'Loch Erroch Side'." In southwestern Pennsylvania it was one of several tunes to which the title "The Rocky Road to Dublin" became attached. Irish musicians know it as the polka "The Lakes of Sligo". Williamson (1976) remarks that Dunsinane Castle (of MacBeth fame) overlooks the Carse of Gowrie (a *carse* is a fertile plain near a river).

The title "Lass o' Gowrie" comes from lyrics set to the melody by Caroline Oliphant of Gask (1766-1845), whose father joined the Jacobite rebellion of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745.

It was printed in William Ross's **Ross's Collection of Pipe Music** (1869), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 4** (1880's), Williamson's **English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Fiddle Tunes** (1976) and Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996).

This version is from Williamson. He plays it in a medley with "The Flowers of Edinburgh" and "The East Neuk o' Fife".