

The Lasses of Stewarton

The musical score for "The Lasses of Stewarton" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a first ending marked 'A' and contains the chords D, Am7, D, D, Am7, G, Am7, and G. The second staff contains a second ending marked 'B' with chords Am7, G, G, D7, G, D7, G, and D7. The third staff contains a section marked 'C' with chords C, G, G, D7, G, D7, G, and D7. The fourth staff contains a first ending marked 'D' with chords C, G, C, G, D, and Am7. The fifth staff contains the chords D, Am7, G, D, and Am7. The sixth staff concludes with the chords D, Am7, G, and a final D chord marked 'Fine'.

"The Lasses of Stewarton", also known as "Lasses of Stewartown/Stewington/Stuarton", "Da Cross Reel" (Shetland), "The Humors of Williamstown" or "Over the Isles to America" is a Scottish and Canadian reel in D Mixolydian. The parts are played AABBCCD (Athole, Gow, Lowe) or AABBCDD' (Kerr, MacDonald).

This version is from MacDonald's **The Skye Collection**.

It is another tune commemorating an area's local girls.

John Glen (1891) finds the earliest appearance of the tune in print in Edinburgh publisher Neil Stewart's **Collection of Newest and Best Reels or Country Dances** (1761). It was published again by Stewart in an edition of 1775, then subsequently appears in several later publications. A version was entered into the large 1840 music manuscript collection of John Rook (Waverton, Cumbria).

It is related to the Shetland tune "Da Cross Reel" a somewhat "crooked" (asymmetrical) version of this tune with only six measures in the last part.

The first sound recording of the tune was probably that by The Cameron Men on a 78RPM record for Edison Bell in London.

It is a very popular old reel among Cape Breton fiddlers and frequently recorded.

It was printed in Campbell's **9th Book of New and Favorite Country Dances & Strathspey Reels** (1795), Gow's **Complete Repository, Part 1** (1799), John Gow's **A Favorite Collection of Slow Airs, Strathspeys and Reels** (c. 1804), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 3** (c. 1880's), Joseph Lowe's **Lowe's Collection of Reels, Strathspeys and Jigs, book 5** (1844-45), MacDonald's **The Skye Collection** (1887) and Stewart-Robertson's **The Athole Collection** (1884).

It was recorded by Natalie MacMaster on **Fit as a Fiddle** (1993), Brenda Stubbert (Cape Breton) on **In Jig Time!** (1995), Alex Francis MacKay with Gordon MacLean on **Gaelic in the Bow** (2005) and Ronan Martin on **Ronan Martin** (2008).