

Da Lerwick Lasses

The musical score for "Da Lerwick Lasses" is written in G Major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a boxed letter 'A' above it. The second staff features a first ending bracketed with '1' and a second ending bracketed with '2', followed by a boxed letter 'B'. The third staff continues the melody with a first ending bracketed with '1'. The fourth staff has a second ending bracketed with '2'. Chords G, D, C, and G are indicated above the notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3'.

"Da Lerwick Lasses" is a Shetland reel in G Major. The parts are played AABB (Brody), AABB' (Anderson & Georgeson) or AA'BB' (Bain).

Lerwick is the capital of the Shetland Islands and lies on the main island. Its name is Norse, stemming from the time of the Vikings and means 'muddy bay'.

The tune, originally collected on the island of Unst for the Shetland Folk Society, is in the repertory of the Shetland Fiddle Band and has been disseminated throughout the islands. Anderson & Georgeson note that the second turning (measures 2 and 4) of this tune should have a "stop-go" effect, called a 'lag' in Vidlin, which practice stemmed from the fiddler's following of the dancer's steps in the old days, which were sometimes erratic in rhythm.

It was printed in Anderson & Georgeson's *Da Mirrie Dancers* (1970), Bain's *50 Fiddle Solos* (1989) and Brody's *Fiddler's Fake Book* (1983).

It was recorded by Boys of the Lough on *Second Album* (1974).