

Loch Earn

The musical score for "Loch Earn" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The first measure is a whole note chord G, followed by a repeat sign with a fermata. The second staff contains two first endings: the first ending is marked "1." and the second "2.". The third staff continues the melody with various chords. The fourth staff features a sequence of chords: C, D, C, D, G, C. The fifth staff concludes with chords D7 and G.

Staff 1: G, Am, D7, G. Includes a repeat sign with a fermata.

Staff 2: 1. Am, D7, G; 2. Am, D7, G. Includes a repeat sign with a fermata. Section **B** is marked.

Staff 3: C, D7, Em, D7, G.

Staff 4: C, D, C, D, G, C.

Staff 5: D7, G.

"Loch Earn Reel", also known as "Jumping Joan" is a Scottish and Canadian reel in G Major. The parts are played AB (Honeyman, Surene) or AAB (most versions).

One of the better-known compositions by Nathaniel Gow 1763-1831, who claimed 197 tunes; it is sometimes erroneously listed under Niel Gow's name (Skye) or as the ambiguous "N. Gow".

Loch Earn is in the west of Strathearn, Perthshire, Scotland. The River Earn flows out of it eastward to eventually join the River Tay Estuary. Unusually, the loch has a tide-like phenomenon (though unrelated to the moon) called a seiching, in which wind action over the surface of the water sets up an oscillating cycle resulting in a rise and drop of water levels over a 16-hour period.

There exists a ruin called Loch Earn Castle, once the stronghold of the MacNeishes from the year 1250 to the mid-15th century. The MacNeishes of Loch Earn appear to have been predatory raiders like their MacInnes kin in Glencoe. The MacNeishes were continually at war with their neighbors the MacNabs. In 1612 the MacNeishes made the mistake of preying on the McNabs by stealing their Christmas feast. The McNabs raided the MacNeish castle while the MacNeishes were drunk after consuming the stolen feast. The McNabs slaughtered everyone but a one girl and one boy who escaped by hiding. The McNab crest historically depicts the dead McNeish chief's head.

It was printed in Anderson's **Anderson's Budget of Strathspeys, Reels & Country Dances** (c. 1820), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Glen's **The Glen Collection of Scottish Dance Music, vol. 2** (1895), Gow's **2nd Collection of Niel Gow's Reels** (1788), Henderson's **Flowers of Scottish Melody** (1935), Honeyman's **Strathspey, Reel and Hornpipe Tutor** (1898), Hunter's **Fiddle Music of Scotland** (1988), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1880), Lees's **Balmoral Reel Book** (c. 1910), Lowe's **Lowe's Collection of Reels, Strathspeys and Jigs, Book 1** (1844-1845), MacDonald's **The Skye Collection** (1887), Moffat's **Dance Music of the North** (1908), O'Farrell's **Pocket Companion, vol. IV** (c. 1810) (as "Lough Earn"), Preston's **Preston's Twenty-Four Country Dances for the Year 1804** (1804), Stewart-Robertson's **The Athole Collection** (1884) and Surene's **Dance Music of Ireland** (1852).

It was recorded by The Edinburgh Highland Reel and Strathspey Society (1936), Winnie Chafe on **Highland Melodies**, Joe Cormier on **The Dances Down Home** (1977) and Pete Clark on **Even Now: The Music of Niel Gow**.