

# Loch Erroch Side

The musical score for "Loch Erroch Side" is written in treble clef, D major, and 4/4 time. It consists of two main sections, A and B, each with five staves of music. Section A is marked with a boxed 'A' and includes guitar chords D, G, and A7. Section B is marked with a boxed 'B' and includes guitar chords D, G, A7, and D. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some passages involving triplets and sixteenth-note runs.

**Section A:**

- Staff 1: D
- Staff 2: D, A7, D
- Staff 3: G, A7, D, A7

**Section B:**

- Staff 4: D, G
- Staff 5: D, A7, D, D, G
- Staff 6: A7, D, D, G, D, A7, D

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"Loch Erroch Side", also known as "Loch Eireachd Side" or "Loch Ericht Side" is a Scottish air or slow strathspey in D Major (Cole) or C Major (Alburger, Athole, Campbell, Kerr, Skye). The parts are played AB (Alburger, Cole, McGlashan, Skye), AAB (Athole), AABB (Kerr) or AABCCD (Campbell).

Loch Erroch is the largest lake in Perthshire.

This tune may have been composed by Niel Gow, who played it for Robert Burns when Burns visited him in Dunkeld in October, 1787 (though in later life Burns did not support Gow's authorship). Burns long afterwards wrote the lyric "Oh, stay, sweet warbling woodlark, stay!" to the tune.

The melody, as both a tune and song air, proved popular and appears in a number of late 18th/early 19th century publications. James Johnson included it as a song in **The Scots Musical Museum, vol. 1** (1787), as did David Sime in **The Edinburgh Musical Miscellany** (1793).

An unusual Scottish country dance called Loch Erichside (from Roxburghshire and West Berwickshire) was one of the relatively few dances wholly or in part in strathspey time in the early 10th century (Flett & Flett, 1964).

The tune resembles "The Lass of Gowrie" in this section.

It was printed in Aird's **Selection of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs, vol. 3** (1788), Aird's **Selection of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs, vol. 4** (1796), Alburger's **Scottish Fiddlers and Their Music** (1983), Joshua Campbell's **A Collection of New Reels & Highland Strathspeys** (1789), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Crosby's **Caledonian Musical Repository** (1811), Gale's **Pocket Companion** (c. 1800), Gow's **Second Collection of Niel Gow's Reels** (1788), Gow's **The Beauties of Niel Gow, vol. 1**, Gow's **Second Collection of Strathspey Reels** (1788), Graham's **Popular Songs of Scotland** (1908), Gow & Shepherd's **Complete Repository**, Henderson's **Flowers of Scottish Melody** (1935), Johnson's **Scots Musical Museum, vol. 1** (1787), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 2**, MacDonald's **The Skye Collection** (1887), McGlashan's **Collection of Reels** (1781), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Smith's **Scottish Minstrel, vol. 2** (1820–24), Stewart-Robertson's **The Athole Collection** (1884), Tracy's **Selection of the Present Favorite Country Dances** (c. 1795), Wilson's **A Companion to the Ballroom** (1816).