

Morpeth Rant

The image shows a musical score for "Morpeth Rant" in G major and 4/4 time. It is divided into two parts, Part A and Part B. Part A consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and is followed by a series of eighth notes. The second staff continues with eighth notes and includes a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4). Part B also consists of two staves. The first staff starts with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and includes a first ending bracket over the first two measures. The second staff continues with eighth notes and includes a second ending bracket over the last two measures. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, A7, D, G, Em, A7, D, G, A, Bm, A7, D, Em, A7, D, A, D, Em, A7, D, D.

The town of Morpeth is in Northumberland, a market center on the River Wansbeck serving the surrounding rural areas and the villages of the Northumbrian coalfield. It evolved around a Norman fortress called Morpeth Castle, one of several guarding the east coast routes to Scotland. The Morpeth Rant was the name of a dance that has been performed for over almost two centuries, and numerous tunes and tune variants were played in accompaniment to it over many years; thus there are a number of tunes called "Morpeth Rant" or "Old Morpeth Rant" that have varying degrees of similarity. One version is also used as a morris dance tune. I learned this from Alec Slater's **Clawhammer Banjo Solos** book.