

# The Newcastle Hornpipe

James Hill

The musical score for "The Newcastle Hornpipe" is presented in five staves. The first staff, labeled 'A', begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It features a single line of music with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The second staff, labeled 'B', also begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature, and contains a single line of music with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. The third staff contains a single line of music. The fourth staff contains a single line of music with a first ending bracket. The fifth staff contains a single line of music with a first ending bracket. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and triplets.

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"The Newcastle Hornpipe", also known as "New Castle", "Newcastle Clog", "McCormack's", "Newcastle Hill Clog" or "Prince Albert's Hornpipe" is a Scottish, hornpipe known in Scotland, England, Northumberland, Canada and Cape Breton in C Major (Hunter) or B Flat Major (Cranford, Hardie, Kerr, O'Malley). The parts are played AB (Hardie, Hunter), AABB (Cranford) or AA'BB' (Kerr, O'Malley).

The tune has a range of more than two octaves and contains several jumps of more than an octave. In the last measure of the A part the jump is two octaves.

It was composed by fiddler and renowned hornpipe composer James Hill (c. 1815-1853), a native of Dundee who spent most of his life at Gateshead, northeast England, near Newcastle, Northumberland.

Regarding an alternate title, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert officiated at the opening in 1850 of the High Level Bridge and the Central Station in Newcastle, and Hill may have been honoring both the monarchy and the new structures that graced his city.

Famed Irish fiddler Michael Coleman recorded the tune in 1936 in New York under the title "McCormack's", paired with another Hill composition ("High Level Hornpipe"). (Hill also composed "The Hawk" in this section.)

Canadian fiddler Don Messer recorded it as "Newcastle Hill".

It was printed in Cranford's **Jerry Holland's Collection of Fiddle Tunes** (1995) and Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1875), Banalari's **Celtic Encyclopedia** (1999).

It was recorded by Michael Coleman (1936, as "McCormacks"), Brian Conway on **First Through the Gate** (2002), Don Messer, Larry Redican and on **The Early Recordings of Angus Chisholm** (Cape Breton).