

Perthshire Hunt

Musical score for Perthshire Hunt, featuring a first ending (A) and a second ending (B). The key signature is A major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of four staves of music.

Staff 1: **A** (boxed). Chords: A, Bm, A. First ending bracket (1.) over the final two measures. Chords: E7, A.

Staff 2: Second ending bracket (2.) over the first two measures. Chords: E7, A. **B** (boxed). Chords: A, Bm, A.

Staff 3: Chords: E7, A, A, Bm, A, Bm.

Staff 4: Chords: E7, A.

"The Perthshire Hunt", also known as "The Perth Hunt", "Boyne Hunt", "Highland Skip", "Molly Maguire", "Niel Gow's Reel", "The Persian Hunt", "The Popcorn", "Richmond Hill" or "The Sailor's Trip to Liverpool" is a Scottish and Canadian reel in A Major (most versions), D Major (Miller, Ross) or C Major (Jones). The parts are played AB (Surenne), AAB (most versions), AABB (Honeyman) or AABB' (Athole).

The melody was composed by Miss Magdalene Stirling (1765–1846) of Ardoch Perthshire around 1788. The Stirlings were an old Perthshire family, a branch of whom held lands in the parish of Muthill. Magdalene was a friend of Niel Gow and his son Nathaniel, who published a few of her compositions in their publications. She also published compositions under her own name.

Caoimhin Mac Aoidh (1994) maintains the tune was commissioned for the Perthshire Hunt Ball, an annual social event sponsored by the Perthshire Hunt, a gentleman's club.

In America the melody was published in Baltimore by George P. Knauff in his *Virginia Reels*, volume II (1839) as "Richmond Hill" and in Ireland the reel is well-known by the title "Boyne Hunt". A few 19th century English musicians' manuscripts give the title as "The Persian Hunt", a corruption of the title "Perthshire Hunt".

It was printed in Anderson's **Anderson's Budget of Strathspeys, Reels & Country Dances** (1820), Glen's **Collection of Scottish Dance Music, vol. 2** (1895), Gow's **Second Collection of Niel Gow's Reels** (1788), Honeyman's **Strathspey, Reel and Hornpipe Tutor** (1898), Hunter's **The Fiddle Music of Scotland** (1988), Jones' **Complete Tutor Violin** (c. 1815), Kennedy's **Fiddler's Tune-Book, vol. 2** (1954) (as "Persian Hunt"), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1880's) (appears as "The Perth Hunt"), Joseph Lowe's **Lowe's Collection of Reels, Strathspeys and Jigs, book 5** (1859), MacDonald's **The Skye Collection** (1887), Mackintosh's **Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs, &c.** (after 1797), Martin's **Traditional Scottish Fiddling** (2002), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, vol. 3** (1977), Offord's **Bonny Cumberland** (2018), Preston's **24 Country Dances for the Year 1804**, Raven's **English Country Dance Tunes** (1984) (as "Persian Hunt"), Ross' **Collection of Pipe Music** (1869), Skinner's **The Scottish Violinist** (1900), Skinner's **Harp and Claymore** (1904), Stewart-Robertson's **The Athole Collection** (1884), Stirling's **Twelve Tunes** (1812) and Surenne's **Dance Music of Scotland** (1852).

It was recorded by Joe MacLean on **Joe MacLean and His Old Time Scottish Fiddle** (1977) and Michael Coleman on **The Musical Glory of Old Sligo** (1967).