

Petronella

Part A

Part B

D A7 D A7

D A7 D A7

D G Em A D

G Em A D

D

"Petronella", also known as "Patronella" is a Scottish (originally), American, Canadian, Irish and English reel and Scottish country dance tune in D Major (Brody, Kennedy, Kerr, Lerwick, Martin, Messer, Miller & Perron, Raven, Silberberg, Sweet), G Major (Linscott, Milne) or F Major (Athole, Emmerson, Gow, Hunter, Lees, Manson). The parts are played AAB (Milne) or AABB (most versions).

A version of this tune appears as the first two parts of "Gallopede" which appears in the Contrabass section.

The title derives from the name "petronel", a type of pistol employed in the 16th and 17th centuries. The petronel was known as a horse-man's weapon from which both the pistol and carbine developed. The name itself is a variant of the French word *petrinel* or *poitrinal*, given because the weapon was fired with the butt resting against the chest (*poitrine*, from the Latin *pectus*) or because it was carried slung from a belt across the chest.

The tune is linked with a country dance of the same name in Scotland and New England. The dance seems to have enjoyed popularity throughout the last three quarters of a century in Scotland. The set dance features a point where everyone stamps at once, perhaps in imitation of the weapon of the title. A standard set of tunes is often used as the vehicle for the dance in Scotland, consisting of "The Dashing White Sergeant", "My Love is but a Lassie Yet" and "The Rose Tree", although many tunes may be substituted.

"Petronella" has proved a staple at New England contra dances over the last century, probably from Scottish sources.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983) and **Banjo Picker's Fakebook** (1985), Emmerson's **Rantin' Pipe and Tremblin' String** (1971), Galwey's **Old Irish Croonauns** (1910), Gow's **Complete Repository, Part 4** (1817), Hunter's **The Fiddle Music of Scotland** (1988), S. Johnson's **Kitchen Musician No. 4: Fine Tunes** (1988) (revised 1991, 2001), Kennedy's **Fiddler's Tune-Book, vol. 1** (1951), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1880's), Laybourn's **Köhler's Violin Repository, vol. 1** (1881), J. Kenyon Lees's **Balmoral Reel Book** (1910's), Lerwick's **Kilted Fiddler** (1985), Linscott's **Folk Songs of Old New England** (1939), Manson's **Hamilton's Universal Tune Book, vol. 1** (1854), Martin's **Traditional Scottish Fiddling** (2002), Messer's **Anthology of Favorite Fiddle Tunes** (1980) (appears as "Patronella"), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddler's Repertoire** (1983), Milne's **Middleton's Selection of Strathspeys, Reels &c. for the Violin** (1870), Perlman's **Melodic Clawhammer Banjo** (1979), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Pickow's **Hammered Dulcimer** (1979), Raven's **English Country Dance Tunes** (1984), **The Robbins collection of 200 jigs, reels and country dances** (1933), Silberberg's **Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern** (2002), Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980), Stewart-Robertson's **The Athole Collection** (1884), Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964/1981), Welling's **Welling's Hartford Tunebook** (1976), Williamson's **English, Welsh, Scottish & Irish Fiddle Tunes** (1976).

It was recorded by Rodney Miller on **New England Chestnuts 2** (1981), Dudley Laufman on **Swinging on a Gate** (1974), John McCutcheon on **How Can I Keep from Singing?** (1975).

I don't usually play this tune on the banjo so the banjo tab for this tune is from Ken Perlman's **Melodic Clawhammer Banjo** (1979) until I work up my own.