

Pride of the Ball

A

D Am7 C

Am7 D Am7

G Am7 G D | 1. G D || 2. G D

B

D Am7 D Am7 C

Am7 D Am7 D Am7

G Am7 G D | 1. G D || 2. G D

"Pride of the Ball", also known as "The Family Estate", "The Girl with the Handsome Face", "Joshua Gray", "MacKenzie's Farewell to Ross-Shire", "McKenna's Reel", "Miss Wright's Reel", "Mollie's Bonnet", "Molloy's Night Cap", "Pigeon on the Gate", "The Queen's Wedding", "Speed the Plow", "Steeple Chase", "The Swallow's Tail Reel", "Take Your Hand Away" or "Village Reel" is a Scottish, Irish, Canadian and American reel in A Dorian. The parts are played AABB (Cole, Harding, Joyce, Kennedy, Kerr, O'Neill) or AA'BB' (Perlman).

A member of the "The Swallowtail Reel/Swallow's Tail Reel" tune family, a large and widely disseminated tune family popular in Scotland and Ireland and in North America. Perlman (1996) notes that there is some confusion between this tune and "Pigeon on the Gatepost", in fact, several of the variants he lists (such as "Roddy Joe's Reel" and "The Twin Sisters") are also listed as variants for "Pigeon on the Gatepost" (not the same tune as "Pigeon on the Gate").

The tune was also collected by Samuel Bayard (*Dance to the Fiddle*, 1981) as an untitled reel collected from a fiddler he met from Prince Edward Island, Canada, in the 1930's. Ken Perlman collected it from PEI fiddlers some sixty years later.

It was printed in Bégin's **Fiddle Music in the Ottawa Valley** (1985), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), **Harding's Collection** and **Harding's Original Collection**, Henebry's **A Handbook of Irish Music** (1928), **Journal of the Irish Folk Song Society**, vol. 18 (1921) (as "The Village Reel"), Joyce's **Old Irish Folk Music and Songs** (1909) (appears as an untitled reel), Kennedy's **Fiddler's Tune-Book: Reels & Rants, Flings & Fancies** (1977), Kerr's **Merry Melodies**, vol. 2 (c. 1880's), Kerr's **Merry Melodies**, vol. 4 (c. 1880's), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903) and Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996).