

Willafjord

The musical score for "Willafjord" is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff shows the main melody with a repeat sign and a first ending. The second staff continues the melody with a second ending. The third staff shows a bass line with a repeat sign and a first ending. The fourth staff continues the bass line with a second ending. The fifth staff shows the final chord progression and a repeat sign.

"Willafjord" or "Wullafjord" and variously spelled as "Villafjord", "Willa Fjord", "Willafiord", "Willow Fjord", is known by fiddlers throughout the Shetland Islands. The great Shetland collector Tom Anderson said that "Willafjord" was brought back from the Greenland whaling expeditions by Shetland fiddlers and has long since become a standard of the genre. In his book **Hand Me Doon da Fiddle** (1979), Anderson said that there were a lot of fiddlers from many countries that were employed in the whaling industries. Shetland was an important part of the whaling industry in the nineteenth century, so the dual actions of the Shetlanders sailing abroad, and whalers from overseas visiting the island has partly resulted in Shetland's unique music. He also said that "Willafjord" is played in Newfoundland and Cape Breton using the same bowing strokes as in Shetland.

This tune uses a syncopated rhythm.

It has been recorded by Alasdair Fraser, Dave Swarbrick and others.

"Willafjord" pairs well with Ian Burns' "Spootiskerry".

It was printed in Anderson's **Hand Me Doon da Fiddle** (1979), Cooke's **The Fiddle Tradition of the Shetland Isles** (1986), Flett & Flett's **Traditional Dancing in Scotland** (1964), Lerwick's **Kilted Fiddler** (1985), Martin & Hughes' *Ho-ro-gheallaidh* (1990) and Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1965/1981).