

Alexander's Hornpipe

The image shows a musical score for "Alexander's Hornpipe" in D major, 4/4 time. The score is divided into two sections, A and B. Section A (measures 1-9) starts with a descending triplet and includes a first and second ending. Section B (measures 10-16) starts with an ascending triplet and also includes a first and second ending. Chords are indicated above the notes, and triplets are marked with a '3' and a bracket.

"Alexander's Hornpipe", also known as "Alexander's Favourite", "Byrne's Hornpipe", "*Byth Ar Y Sul*", "Goswick Kirn", "Prunoble's" and "The Sandlark" is an Irish hornpipe in D.

The tune appears as "Byrne's Hornpipe" in the *Feis Ceoil Collection of Traditional Irish Music* (1914). O'Neill printed it in 1903 in his *Music of Ireland*, but omitted it from his 1907 *Dance Music of Ireland*.

An early version of the hornpipe can be found in the music manuscript copybook of fiddler John Burks under the title "Prunoble's Hornpipe". I can't find any reference to who Alexander was.

It was printed in McDermott's *Allan's Irish Fiddler* (c. 1920's) as "Alexander's Favourite", Moylan's *Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra* (1994), O'Neill's *Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies* (1903), Ryan's *Mammoth Collection* (1883) and *Sing Out*, vol. 34, no. 4, Fall 1989.

It is an interesting and distinctive tune with lots of triplets. They make it a bit challenging but it's worth the effort. Some versions begin with an ascending triplet ABC instead of the descending gfe. It was recorded by Tommy Reck, Sláinte, Paddy Reynolds, John McKenna, Seamus Ennis, Boys Of The Lough, Mick Maloney and others.

I learned it from Mick Maloney on his album *Mick Maloney with Eugene O'Donnell*. They play it in a medley with "The Fairies Hornpipe".