

Ally Croker

The musical score for "Ally Croker" is presented in six staves. The key signature is D major (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff is marked with a boxed 'A' and contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, with chords D, A7, and D. The second staff contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, with chords A7, D, and A7. The third staff is marked with a boxed 'B' and contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, with chords D, A7, and A7. The fourth staff contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, with chords G and D. The fifth staff contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, with chords A7, G, A7, and D. The sixth staff contains the notes D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, with chords A7 and D.

"Ally Croker", also known as "Ally Croaker", "Ally Crocker", "Alley Crocker", "Alas my Little Bag", "Hunters of Kentucky", "O! The Shamrock", "*Reel des Bouchons*", "Stick the Minister" or "Shamrock Cockade" is an Irish, Scottish, English, American and Canadian air, reel or country dance in D Major (most versions), B Flat Major (Haverty) or G Major (Thompson). The parts are played One part (Haverty, Thompson), AB (Kerr's, Messer), ABB (Brody) or AABB (Miller & Perron, Sloanaker, Sweet).

There was a song, written and music composed by Lawrence (Larry) Grogan of Johnstown Castle, County Wexford, who was renowned as a "gentleman piper" and composer of Irish airs. Grogan was the first performer on the improved version of the Irish pipes called the uilleann or Union pipes. In 1803 the air was wedded by George Colman to a song entitled "The Unfortunate Miss Bailey" and Thomas Moore used it for his lyric "O! The Shamrock".

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Campbell's **9th Book of New and Favorite Country Dances & Strathspey Reels** (1795), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), P.M. Haverty's **One Hundred Irish Airs vol. 2** (1858), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1880), Joseph Lowe's **Lowe's Collection of Reels, Strathspeys and Jigs, book 2** (1844-1845), Messer's **Way Down East** (1948), Messer's **Anthology of Favorite Fiddle Tunes** (1980), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddlers Repertoire** (1983) (appears as "Alice Crocker's Reel"), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964), Thompson's **Compleat Collection of 200 Favourite Country Dances, vol. 1** (1757) and Charles, Anne & Samuel Thompson's **The Hibernian Muse** (1787).

It was recorded by Rodney and Randy Miller on **Castles in the Air**.