

The Belfast Hornpipe

The Belfast Hornpipe is a traditional Irish dance tune in D major, 4/4 time. The score is written for a single melodic line and includes several sections labeled A, B, and C. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and is characterized by the use of triplets. Chords are indicated above the staff, and first and second endings are marked with '1.' and '2.'.

Section A: The first staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#) and continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chords D, G, and A7 are indicated above the staff.

Section B: The second staff continues the melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. Chords D, G, and A7 are indicated. The section concludes with a first ending marked '1.' and a triplet of eighth notes.

Section C: The third staff begins with a second ending marked '2.' and a triplet of eighth notes. Chords D, G, and D are indicated. The fourth staff continues with chords A7, G, D, G, D, and A7. The fifth staff begins with a first ending marked '1.' and a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a second ending marked '2.' and a triplet of eighth notes. Chords D, A7, D, A7, G, A7, D, A7, D, A7, G3, A73, G, and D3 are indicated. The sixth staff continues with chords D, A7, D, A7, G, A7, D, A7, D, A7, G3, A73, G3, and D3. The seventh staff concludes with a first ending marked '1.' and a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a second ending marked '2.' and a triplet of eighth notes. Chords A7 and D are indicated.

"The Belfast Hornpipe", also known as "*Clog des laboueurs*", "Royal Belfast", "Millicent's Hornpipe", "Millicen's Favourite", "Millicent's Favourite", "Sweep's Hornpipe", "Great Eastern Hornpipe" or "The Great Western Hornpipe" is an Irish, English and Scottish hornpipe in D Major. The parts are played AABBC (Martin) or AABBCC (Allan, Kennedy, O'Neill).

The melody was printed under the generic title "Lancashire Clog" in Elias Howe's **Musician's Omnibus Nos. 6 & 7** (Boston, 1880-1882) and soon after as "Millicent's Hornpipe" in a collection by Glasgow publisher James S. Kerr; but by the 1920's had acquired the title "Belfast Hornpipe" (among other titles) by which it was printed in Allan's *Irish Fiddler*.

As "The Sweep's Hornpipe" it was button accordion player Joe Derrane's signature tune.

Quebec fiddler Albert Allard recorded the hornpipe, note for note the same as "Belfast Hornpipe", in Montreal in 1938 as "*Clog des laboueurs*".

The name Belfast means 'crossing place by a sandbank'.

It was printed in Elias Howe's **Musician's Omnibus Nos. 6 & 7** (1880-1882), Kennedy's **Fiddlers Tune Book, vol. 2** (1951)("The Lass on the Strand"), Martin's *Ceol na Fidhle, vol. 2* (1988), McDermott's **Allan's Irish Fiddler** (1920's) and Krassen's **O'Neill's Music of Ireland** (1976).