

Bonaparte's Advance

The musical score for "Bonaparte's Advance" is written in A major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed section labeled 'A'. The second staff ends with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and an 'A' chord. The third staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' and a boxed section labeled 'B'. The fourth and fifth staves continue the melody with various chords. The sixth staff concludes with two first ending brackets labeled '1.' and '2.', both with an 'A' chord.

Chords: A, D, A, E7, A, D, A, E7, A, E7, A, D, A, E7, A, A, A.

"Bonaparte's Advance", also known as "Madame Bonaparte" (in Gaelic "*Banflait Bonapart*") is an Irish set dance in 4/4 time and G Major or A Major.

The parts are played AABB (most versions) or AABB'CC (Williamson).

This is mostly known as "Madame Bonaparte" but I prefer the "Bonaparte's Advance" title because it goes with "Bonaparte's Retreat" even though it is in a different key.

The tune is named in honor of Bonaparte's wife, the Empress Josephine, probably reflecting the Irish sympathy with powerful Catholic France and the hope that Napoleon might at some point aid the cause of Irish independence. According to Donal Hickey, "Madame Bonaparte" was associated with James Gandsey, 'the Killarney Minstrel', who died in 1857 at the age of 90.

Gandsey survives in folk memory in the *Sliabh Luachra* (County Kerry/Cork border) region and some facts are clearly remembered. The son of a soldier in Ross Castle and a native Killarney mother, Gandsey was almost completely blinded in infancy by smallpox. He became known as Lord Headley's Piper and contributed several tunes to the regional repertoire, including as well "Jackson's Morning Brush" and "The Fox Chase". He is buried in Muckross Abbey, Killarney, where a plaque has been erected in his memory.

It was printed in Cranitch's **Irish Fiddle Book** (1996), Giblin's **Collection of Traditional Irish Dance Music** (1928)(appears as untitled hornpipe), Johnson's **The Kitchen Musician No. 5: Mostly Irish Airs** (1985 - revised 2000), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary** (1994), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), **Northumbrian Pipers' Society Tunebook** (1985), Krassen's **O'Neill** (1976), O'Neill's **O'Neill's Irish Music** (1915), O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907), Welling's **Welling's Hartford Collection** (1976), Williamson's **English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Fiddle Tunes** (1976).

It was recorded by Finbar Furey on **Finbar Furey Traditional Irish Pipe Music**, Canterbury Dance Orchestra on **Mistwold**, Ken Perlman on **Clawhammer Banjo and Fingerstyle Guitar Solos** and The Chieftains on **Bonaparte's Retreat** (1976).