

## The Bonnie Black Eagle

The musical score for "The Bonnie Black Eagle" is presented in five staves. The first staff (measures 1-3) is marked with a box 'A' and contains a D chord. The second staff (measures 4-7) also contains a D chord. The third staff (measures 8-11) contains Bm and D chords, with a first ending bracket over measures 9-10 and a second ending bracket over measures 10-11, both marked with a box 'B'. The fourth staff (measures 12-15) contains Bm, D, and Em chords. The fifth staff (measures 16-19) contains D and Em chords, with a first ending bracket over measures 17-18 and a second ending bracket over measures 18-19, both marked with a box 'B'. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

"The Bonnie Black Eagle", also known as "The Black Eagle" or "The High Way to Edinburgh" is a Scottish air in 4/4 time and B Minor (McGibbon) or G Minor (Manson). The parts are played AB (Manson) or AABB (McGibbon).

The tune bears a general resemblance throughout to "Turkey in the Straw". Bayard's notes to "Turkey in the Straw" state that the resemblance is strongest in the B parts of the two tunes. Unlike "Turkey in the Straw" which remains in major mode throughout, both parts end on the relative minor tonic.

As "The Black Eagle" it appears in Oswald's **Collection of Curious Scots Tunes** (1742), after a song by Dr. James Fordyce, the tune attributed to David Rizzio (doomed Queen Mary's equally doomed secretary). John Glen (**Early Scottish Melodies**, 1900) gives the tune as "Woman's Work Will Never be Done", in an example of two different tunes with the same title, one English and one Scottish, saying the Scottish one is also called "Bonny Black Eagle" or "The Black Eagle". The Scottish "Woman's Work" tune appears in the **Blaikie Manuscript** of 1692. James Oswald printed the tune again in his **Caledonian Pocket Companion** (1757) under the title "High Way to Edinburgh" attaching a jig to a slow air.

The version shown here is adapted from McGibbon.

It was printed in Manson's **Hamilton's Universal Tune Book, vol. 2** (1853), McGibbon's **Scots Tunes, Book III** (1762) and Oswald's **Caledonian Pocket Companion, Book V** (1760).

I have not found any recordings of this tune.