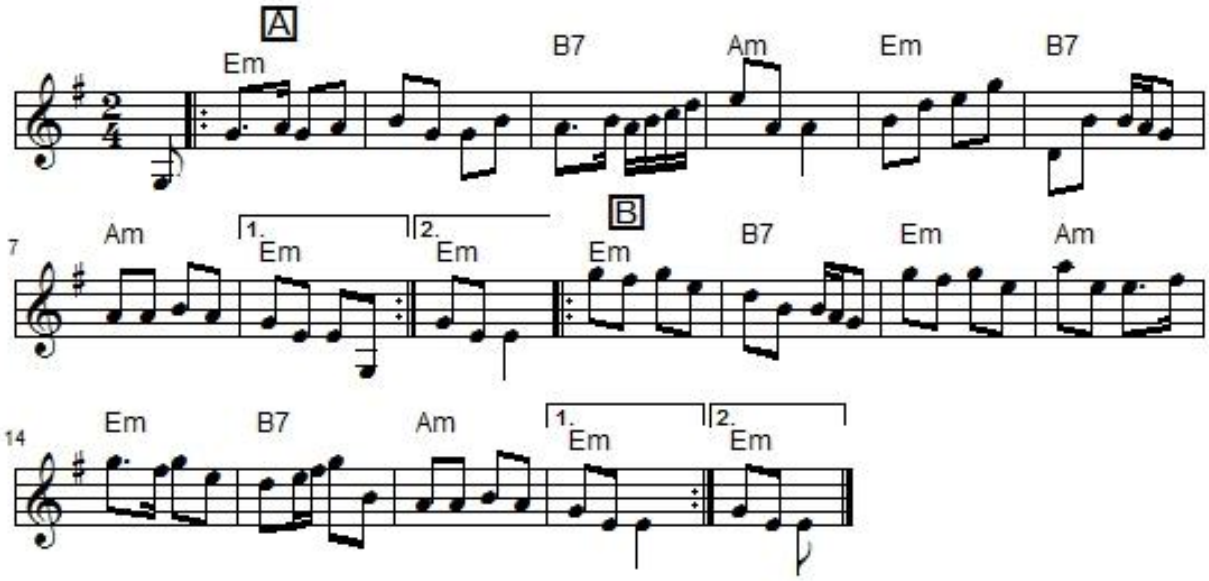
Green Grow The Rushes O [1]



"Green Grow the Rushes O [1]" is represented by a large and diverse family of tunes. Bayard's thirteen Pennsylvania collected versions of the tune are divided into two groups, corresponding with two main British Isles variants. This version, from Bayard version A is one of those usually called "Green Grow the Rushes O". The other variant is known, in various locations, by a wide variety of names. It is similar to the Scottish tune "The East Neuk of Fife". See "Green Grow the Rushes O [2]" for its description.

The current tune is a Scottish (originally), Irish, English and American strathspey, hornpipe, barndance, highland schottische, fling, slide (12/8 time), march or air in G Major, F Major or E Minor. The parts are played AB (Cole, Howe, Moylan, Tubridy, White), AAB (Athole, Ford, Gow, O'Farrell), AABB (most versions), AABB' (O'Brien, Skye) or AA'BB' (Flaherty). The air first appears in early lute manuscripts of the 17th century. The strain of the tune occurs twice in the **Straloch Manuscript** of 1627.

It was printed in Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Ford's **Traditional Music of America** (1940), Gow's **Complete Repository, Part 1** (1799), Howe's **1000 Jigs and Reels** (c. 1867), J. Johnson's **Scots Musical Museum, vol. 1** (1787), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1880), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 2** (c. 1880's), McGibbon's **Collection of Scots Tunes, vol. 2** (c. 1746), O'Farrell's **Pocket Companion, vol. 2** (c. 1806)(appears as "Green Grows the Rashes"), O'Neill's **Waifs and Strays of Gaelic Melody** (1922), Oswald's **Caledonian Pocket Companion, vol. 1** (1760), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Sharp's **Sword Dances of Northern England: Songs and Dance Airs, Book 2** (1912)(as "Bobby Shaftoe"), Stewart-Robertson's **The Athole Collection** (1884), Walsh's **Caledonian Country Dances, vol. 2** (1737), White's **Unique Collection** (1896), Wilson's **A Companion to the Ballroom** (1816) and many others.

It was recorded by Robin Williamson on **Legacy of the Scottish Harpers, vol. 2**, and How to Change a Flat Tire on **Traditional Music From Ireland and Shetland** and others.