

Miss McLeod's Reel

The musical score for "Miss McLeod's Reel" is presented in five staves. It is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff, labeled 'A', begins with a repeat sign and a G chord above the first measure, followed by a melodic line that ends with a D7 chord. The second staff continues the melody with G, C, and D7 chords. The third staff, labeled 'B', also begins with a repeat sign and a G chord, followed by a melodic line ending with a D7 chord. The fourth staff continues the melody with G, C, and D7 chords, ending with a first ending bracket. The fifth staff is a second ending bracket labeled '2.', containing a melodic line with D7 and G chords.

"Miss McLeod's Reel", in Gaelic *Cor Ingean Ni Mic Leod* or *Cor Mhic Leoid*. In America, this is also known as "Did You Ever See the Devil Uncle Joe?", "Did You Ever Go to Meeting Uncle Joe?", "Hop Up Ladies", "Hop High Ladies the Cake's all Dough" and many other names.

The tune was first printed in Nathaniel Gow's **Fifth Collection of Strathspey Reels** of 1809 with the note "An original Isle of Skye Reel. Communicated by Mr. McLeod (of Raasay)." The tune has remained popular with Scottish, Irish and American fiddlers, banjo players and fifers and is known from New England to the Ozarks and probably beyond.

This tune is often played with the parts in reverse order, starting with the B part and finishing with the A part. This is a circular tune that can be repeated continuously. Whichever part is played second, an extra measure needs to be added to end on a G.

I often play this in medleys with:

- "Old Mother Flanagan" in the tunes section or
- "Farewell to Whiskey" in the legacies section.