

The Rakish Highlander

The image displays a musical score for the piece "The Rakish Highlander". The score is written in E minor (one sharp, F#) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed section marker 'A' above the first measure, which has an 'Em' chord below it. The second staff continues the melody with chords D, Em, G, D, and Em. The third staff features a boxed section marker 'B' above the third measure, which has an 'Em' chord below it, and includes a fermata over the second measure of this section. The fourth staff continues with chords D, Em, D, and Em, also featuring a fermata over the second measure. The fifth and final staff concludes the piece with chords D and Em.

"The Rakish Highlander", also known as "The Mountain Lark" is an Irish and Scottish reel in E Minor. The parts are played AB.

The identification of a 'Scottish' provenance seems to have been assumed with the title in William Bradbury Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883). Francis O'Neill's printing of the same melody under the title "The Mountain Lark" came twenty years later in **Music of Ireland** (1903), but it was sourced to Patrolman James Kennedy, who had the tune from his father in County Leitrim.

The reel was in the repertoire of Long Island Irish fiddler and composer Larry Redican, who learned it either from Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** or its successor Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** and who played it under the title "Rakish Highlander". Both Ryan's and O'Neill's titles for the tune are unique to their collections.

It was printed in Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940) and Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883).