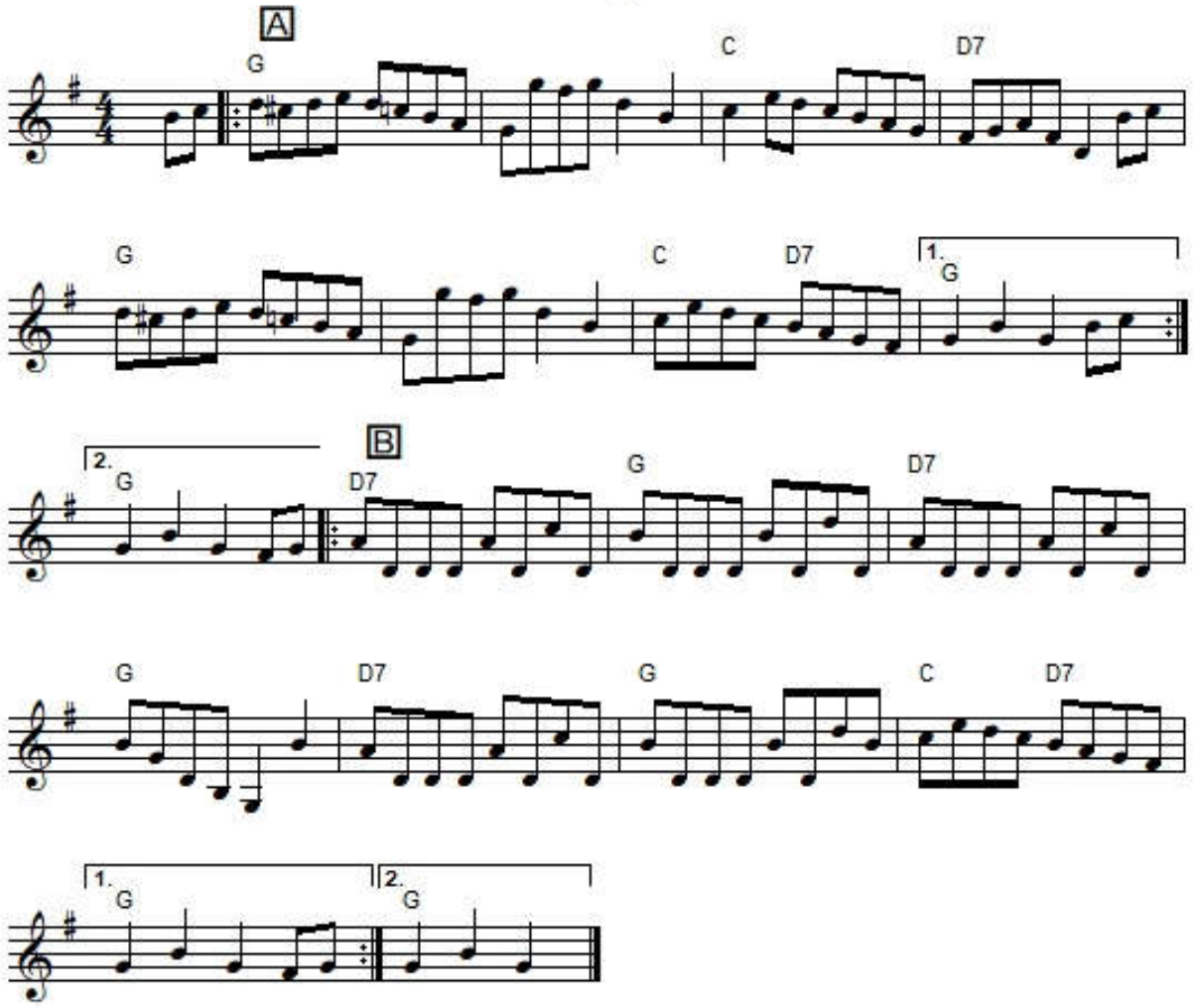
The Saratoga Reel



"The Saratoga Reel", also sometimes identified incorrectly as "The Saratoga Hornpipe", is an Irish reel in 2/4 and G major or A major. The parts are played AA'BB'.

Saratoga, New York, was already a thriving spa destination in the 1880's, when Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** was published. The railroad, built in 1831, brought well-to-do patrons to the mineral water, and a thoroughbred racetrack, the oldest in America, has been in continuous use since 1863.

It was printed in Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Howe's **1000 Jigs and Reels** (c. 1867), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 2** (c. 1880's), Martin & Hughes' ***Ho-ro-ghedllaedh*** (1990), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995) and Songer's **Portland Collection** (1997).

It was recorded by Natalie MacMaster on **A Compilation** (1998) and Betsy Branch, Clyde Curley and Susan Songer on **A Portland Play Along Selection: 97 Contra Dance Tunes for Listening and Learning** (2008).