

Drops of Brandy (Métis)

The musical score for "Drops of Brandy (Métis)" is written in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff, marked with a boxed 'A', contains ten measures with chords G, C, G, C, G, C, G. The second staff, marked with a boxed 'B', contains ten measures, with a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.) indicated by a bracket. The third staff, marked with a boxed 'C', contains eight measures with chords C, G, D, G. The fourth staff contains eight measures with chords C, G. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Drops of Brandy", in French "*La danse du crochet*" (means hook dance in French, so called because the partners hook elbows to swing) is a Métis reel in G major and 2/4 time. The parts are played AA'BBCC. There are ten measures in parts A and B and eight measures in part C. It is not the same tune as the Irish "Drops of Brandy" which is a slip jig in 9/8 time.

The tune comes from the Métis people of Manitoba, Canada. They are the descendants of the French, English, Scottish and Irish fur trappers and their native wives in the 17th century. In Canada, the Métis are one of three major groups of Indigenous peoples that were legally recognized in the Constitution Act of 1982, the other two groups being the First Nations and Inuit. The Métis live mainly in the prairie provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The Métis tune for this dance is a version of "*Le Brandy de Quebec*" that may have been derived from the original 9/8 Scottish pipe tune of the same name. Many of the patterns that the dancers trace on the floor while doing the Hook Dance (and the Square Dance) outline the infinity sign, the symbol of the Métis Nation.