

The Garb of Old Gaul

Musical score for "The Garb of Old Gaul" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of six staves of music with various chords and repeat signs.

Staff 1: Measure 1. Chord: D. Section marker: A.

Staff 2: Measure 4. Chords: Am, G, D.

Staff 3: Measure 8. First ending: 1. A7. Second ending: 2. A7. Chords: D, A7. Section marker: B.

Staff 4: Measure 11. Chords: D, G, D, Am.

Staff 5: Measure 14. Chords: G, D, G, D, G, D, A7.

Staff 6: Measure 17. First ending: 1. D. Second ending: 2. D.

"The Garb of Old Gaul", also known as "In the Garb of Old Gaul", "Captain Reed's March", "The Highland March by Capt. Reid" (Bremner) or "3rd Regt. of Guards March" is a Scottish and English; March in 4/4 time, played in C Major (Kerr) or B Flat Major (Balmoral, Köhler). The parts are played AABB.

It is a British military march of the Revolutionary War period and the most famous composition of John Reid, who died in 1806. Reid, ultimately to become a general, began his career as a commissioned ensign in Loudon's Highlanders at the age of fourteen. As an officer he fought the Jacobites and later served in France. He turned up in North America with the 42nd Regiment (Black Watch) in 1755, where he took part in the capture of Montreal. At one point Reid had an extensive estate near Lake Champlain in New York.

Reid was also an accomplished player on the German flute and a composer of some pieces of merit. He composed a set of minuets and marches, published between 1770 and 1780, of which "The Garb of Old Gaul" is one, although the music for it was first published by Robert Bremner around 1756 under the title "The Highland March by Capt. Reid". Reid said the original words to "Garb" were written in Gaelic by a soldier of the Black Watch, although the ones usually associated with the tune were written (first published in 1765) by General Sir Harry Erskine of Alva in Stirlingshire. By 1769 the Black Watch was playing the air as their slow march (60-70bpm) and it was sometimes called "The Highland March" or "The 42nd Regiment's March". Upon his death in 1806 the University of Edinburgh was the recipient of Reid's estate to establish a Chair of Music, with a concert to be held on his birthday at which some of his compositions would be played in order that the audience would become acquainted with the type of music in vogue during his lifetime. The Reid Memorial concert is still held each January 13th, with "The Garb of Old Gaul" among the pieces played.

The melody still serves as the slow march of all Scottish battalions in the British army. Some soldiers have believed that 'Old Gaul' was some ancient regimental hero immortalized in music but the name actually refers to Gaul that was a province of the Roman Empire corresponding to Eastern France and Western Germany. Its natives were reported to have worn a mantle or cloak belted round the body in the style of the '*Feile Mor*', the belted (Highland) plaid. Hence the kilt is the 'Garb of Old Gaul'.

It was printed in Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 3** (c. 1880's), Köhlers' **Violin Repository, Book 1** (1881-1885), J. Kenyon Lees' **Balmoral Reel Book** (1910), Manson's **Hamilton's Universal Tune Book, vol. 1** (1853) and Moon's **Musick of the Fifes and Drums, Vol 2: Slow Marches** (1977).