

## Huntsman's Chorus

The musical score for "Huntsman's Chorus" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above the staff and a 'D' chord below the first measure. The second staff has 'D', 'G', 'D', and 'A7' chords. The third staff has a boxed letter 'B' above the staff and 'D' and 'G' chords. The fourth staff has 'A7', 'D', 'G', 'D', and 'A7' chords. The fifth staff has a first ending marked '1.' with a 'D' chord and a second ending marked '2.' with a 'D' chord. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

"Huntsman's Chorus", also known as "Hunter's Chorus" or "Huntsmen's Chorus" (similar to "Bunker Hill" (Pa.), "Harrison City" (Pa.) or "A Drag" (Pa.)) is a British Isles and New England country dance in 2/4 time or Morris Dance (4/4 time) tune in C Major (Manson), D Major (Ashman, Brody) or G Major (Phillips, Wade). The parts are played ABC (Ashman) or AABB.

A march called the "Huntsman's Chorus" ("*Was glecht wohl auf Erden*") opens the third act of Carl Maria von Weber's opera *Der Freischütz*, first performed in Berlin in 1821.

It is known by the "Huntsman's Chorus" title in England and New England, but not apparently in Pennsylvania (see alternate names) where it was a staple of many martial bands. It was used as a quick march in England as well as Pennsylvania, particularly by the Rifle Brigade, the 95th Regiment, in the mid-1800's.

The melody was used as a tune for either a polka or single step morris dance in the North-West (England) tradition. A related, untitled, polka was collected by Brendan Breathnach from the playing of John Ryan, from a Radio Éireann recording.

It was printed in Ashman's *The Ironbridge Hornpipe* (1991), Brody's *Fiddler's Fakebook* (1983), *English Dance and Song* (1963 and 1965), Howe's *Diamond School for the Violin* (1861), Laybourn's *Köhler's Violin Repository, vol. 2* (1881-1885), Manson's *Hamilton's Universal Tune Book, vol. 1* (1854), Phillips's *Fiddle Case Tunebook: British Isles* (1989), Townsend's *English Dance Music, vol. 1*, Wade's *Mally's North West Morris Book* (1988), Sumner's *Lincolnshire Collections, vol. 1: The Joshua Gibbons Manuscript* (1997)(appears as "Election Tune", June 1826).

It was recorded by Hickory Wind on *At the Wednesday Night Waltz*, Fennigs All Stars on *The Hammered Dulcimer*.