

I'll Dance a Jig and I'll Dance No More

The image shows a musical score for the jig "I'll Dance a Jig and I'll Dance No More". The score is written in E Dorian mode (one sharp, F#) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Em, Em, Em, A. The second staff continues the melody with chord symbols Em, G, D, A, Em. The third staff has chord symbols D, Em, A, Em, D. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chord symbols Em, A, Em, G, Em. The piece ends with a double bar line.

"I'll Dance a Jig and I'll Dance No More" is an American jig in E Dorian. It is played one part. It was collected from Sarah Armstrong in Derry PA on November 18th, 1943 by Samuel Bayard. Bayard's note:

"This air takes its title from another form of the jingle quoted in connection with "O Dear Mother My Toes are Sore". Mrs. Armstrong's form of the rhyme is:

I'll dance a jig and I'll dance no more,
Till Daddy comes home from Baltimore;
I'll dance no more, my feet are sore,
Dancin' all over the sandy floor.

Her tune is one known also in Greene County and in central Pennsylvania to versions of the rhyme and there are other south-western Pennsylvania airs with the same or similar names."

The tune is very repetitive and Mrs. Armstrong ended it on the 4th (A) so the tune recycles. I wrote it to end on the tonic (E).

It was printed in Bayard's **Hill Country Tunes** (1944).