

The Lady's Breast Knot

The image shows a musical score for the fiddle tune "The Lady's Breast Knot". It is written in D Major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into two strains, A and B, each with a repeat sign. Strain A consists of 8 measures, and Strain B consists of 8 measures. The key signature is D Major. Chord symbols G, D, A7, and Am are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic accompaniment.

"The Lady's Breast Knot(s)", also known as "The Breast Knot" or "The Bonny Breast Knot" is a reel in D Major known in England, Scotland, Shetland and America. The parts are played AABB.

The title refers to the decoration of ribbons worn on the bodice of a gown. It was a very popular in England and mainland Scotland in the early 18th century and spread throughout the British Empire and the colonies.

The tune appears to have been first published as "The Lady's Breast Knot" around 1750 in London in David Rutherford's **Choice Collection of Sixty of the Most Celebrated Country Dances**.

The English tune "Bobby Shaftoe" borrows the second strain of "The Ladies Breast Knot". In America the tune is known as "Jaybird" and the play-party song "Skip to My Lou", although as "The Ladies Breast Knot" it has been known in New England from the last half of the 18th century.

It was included in the 1777 fife manuscript of Giles Gibbs, the common place book of William Williams (1775), George Bush's copybook (1779), and Elizabeth Van Rensselaer's music book (1782).

It was printed in Bremner's **Scots Reels** (c. 1757), Keller's **Fiddle Tunes from the American Revolution** (1992).

It was recorded by Andrew Poleson on **Scottish Tradition, vol. 4: Shetland Fiddle Music** (1973).