

Old Grey Cat

The musical score for "Old Grey Cat" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and is marked with Em and D. The second staff is marked with Em, D, and Em. The third staff is marked with Em and D. The fourth staff is marked with Em, G, A, Em, G, and Em. The melody is a simple, rhythmic tune with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

"Old Grey Cat" is also known as "The Auld Grey Cat", "The Grey Cat Reel" and "The Smuggler's Reel". A popular tune at North American contra dances, borrowed from Scottish repertoire, although claims have been made for an Irish provenance. Charles Gore identified 'the old grey cat' as "*Sean Liath*" (an Irish cat) and found Scottish printings only as far back as the 1880's, where it was listed as an Irish tune.

It was printed in Jarman and Hansen's *Old Time Dance Tunes* (1951), Kerr's *Merry Melodies, vol. 1* (c. 1880's), Lerwick's *Kilted Fiddler* (1985), Martin & Hughes' *Ho-ro-gheallaidh* (1990), Miller & Perron's *101 Polkas* (1978), Phillips' *Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1* (1994), Silberberg's *Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern* (2002), Songer's *Portland Collection* (1997) and Sweet's *Fifer's Delight* (1965/1981).

It was recorded by Cape Cod Fiddlers on *Concert Collection II* (1999), Erin Shrader & Edith Farrar on *Enriches Vous* (1991), Ensemble Galilei on *The Emerald Isles* (2006) and Boudica on *Heartstone: Back Road to Dublin* (2013).

I learned this at our Monday night jam.