

Old Ironsides

The musical score for "Old Ironsides" is written in G Major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It is divided into two main sections, A and B. Section A (staves 1-3) begins with a repeat sign and a boxed 'A'. The first staff has a G chord above the first measure. The second staff has G, C, and G chords above the first three measures. The third staff has a D7 chord above the first measure, followed by a first ending (1. G D7 G) and a second ending (2. G D7 G). Section B (staves 4-6) begins with a boxed 'B'. The first staff has G, C, D7, and G chords above the first four measures. The second staff has G and C chords above the first two measures. The third staff has D7, G, D7, and G chords above the first four measures. The fourth staff has C and D7 chords above the first two measures, followed by a first ending (1. G 3) and a second ending (2. G 3).

"Old Ironsides" is an American hornpipe in G Major. The parts are played AABB (Cole) or AA'BB' (Kerr).

The title refers to the early 19th century American square-rigged frigate the USS Constitution, built in 1797 and converted in modern times to a floating museum in Boston harbor. The warship became famous in the War of 1812 when she defeated several Royal Navy vessels and captured numerous merchant ships. She earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" in her battle with HMS Guerriere.

The earliest sound recording of the tune dates to 1913 when it was waxed by violinist Charles D'Alamaine, born in 1871 in England, who died in 1943. D'Alamaine emigrated to the United States in 1888 and by 1890 had established himself as "instructor on violin" in Evanston, Illinois; by 1910 he had removed to Yonkers and in 1920 was a chiropractor in New York City.

It was printed in Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 2** (c. 1880's) and Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940).