

President Garfield's Hornpipe

The musical score for "President Garfield's Hornpipe" is written in 4/4 time and consists of six staves of music. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb). The score includes several chords and repeat signs:

- Staff 1: Starts with a repeat sign. Chords: Bb, A (boxed), F7.
- Staff 2: Chord: Bb.
- Staff 3: Chords: F7, Bb (first ending), Bb (second ending), Bb (boxed), Eb.
- Staff 4: Chords: Bb, Eb, Bb.
- Staff 5: Chords: Eb, Bb, Am, F7.
- Staff 6: Chords: Bb (first ending), Bb (second ending).

"President Garfield's Hornpipe, also known as "Garfield's Hornpipe", "Blue Water Hornpipe" and "High Level" is an American, Canadian or Irish hornpipe or reel. It is known in New England, Missouri, Canada, Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton. It is played in B Flat major (Brody, Cole, Kerr, Martin & Hughes, Miller & Perron, Perlman, Phillips) or D Major (Sweet). The parts are played AABB (most versions) or AA'BB' (Martin & Hughes).

President James A. Garfield, the twentieth U.S. president, was elected in 1880 and was shot by Charles J. Guiteau, a disgruntled office seeker, at the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station in Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1881. After eleven weeks of intensive care Garfield died in Elberon, New Jersey, the second of four presidents to be assassinated, following Abraham Lincoln.

The composition is credited to Harry Carleton in Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883); Carleton (whose name is perhaps a pseudonym) is thought to have been a journeyman composer in the Boston, Mass. area, who contributed several tunes to Ryan's **Mammoth Collection**, most having titles associated with the post-Civil War North.

"President Garfield's" proved one of the more popular tunes from Ryan's collection and became a staple at New England dances. It also has been widely disseminated in the past century and a half, becoming a popular hornpipe among Maritime Canadian fiddlers. Northumbrian concertina player Alastair Anderson introduced the tune into Northumbrian repertoire, finding it in Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 2**, but also being influenced by hearing New England fiddler Rodney Miller play it. As "Garfield's Hornpipe" it is on Missouri fiddler Charlie Walden's list of '100 essential Missouri fiddle tunes'.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Craig's **Empire Collection of Hornpipes** (c. 1890), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 2** (1880's), Martin & Hughes's *Ho-ro-gheallaidh, vol. 1* (1990), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddler's Repertoire** (1983), Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 2** (1995), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883) and Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964/1981).

It was recorded by Natalie MacMaster on **Fit as a Fiddle** (1993), Rodney and Randy Miller on **Castles in the Air**, Boys of the Lough on **To Welcome Paddy Home**, Alistair Anderson on **Corby Crag** (1978) and Paul O'Shaughnessy & Paul McGrattan on **Within a Mile of Dublin**.