

# Haand me doon da fiddle

TOM ANDERSON PAM SWING

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#### FOREWORD

Fiddle music is the music of the Shetland Islands; descriptive music of the land, the sea, and the sky. Whether of the land with its ancient folk tradition and its age-old crafts and skills evolved as they have done through long generations of human endeayour, or of the sea with the evening serenity of a still voe or the majesty of crashing equinoctial rollers, or of the sky with the splendour of a summer sunset, or the spell of scurrying winter clouds - the music is descriptive. It is the essence of Shetland. This music is at once simple, joyful, powerful. It is an encapsulation of an island way of life. For me, and for those of my colleagues at this university who were involved, it has been a privilege to have assisted in the compilation of this work, and we wish it well. We know that it will bring much pleasure to many people.

> Robert Innes Director of Continuing Education The University STIRLING

21 February 1979

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Mr Patrick Shuldam-Shaw We are indebted to the late Mr Pat Shuldam-Shaw. Mr Shaw came to Shetland in 1947

and became very interested in the musical tradition. Over the years 1947-51 he wrote down, and in the latter two years, recorded on tape many tunes and songs in Shetland. He published in the English Folk and Dance Journal articles of music on the late John Stickle of Unst. His

World which will be hard to fill.

Steven Spence Aged 14, pupil of Baltasound Junior High

School, Unst, for the use of two of his

death in 1977 left a vacuum in the Folk

tunes.

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We should also like to thank the staff and pupils in the Shetland schools who assisted in the provision of the illustrations.

#### HAAND ME DOON DA FIDDLE

Shetland Fiddle Tunes for Bairns of Aa Ages

I am a fiddler ta my trade, An a da world weel knows it, I screw my pins an plink my strings An rub my bow wi roset. 1

#### INTRODUCTION

The object of this book is to help you learn to play fiddle in the Shetland style. The tunes are ones we have used during the course of our teaching in schools in Shetland. After years of carrying around tunes written on scraps of paper which invariably were lost, we decided it was time to put the manuscripts into one book. This book gives us an opportunity at the same time to tell you a little about each tune, as we believe that knowing the story behind the tune is essential to understanding how to play it. Illustrations by the children give their individual viewpoints.

Some of the tunes are known in many places besides Shetland, especially Scotland, but we include them because they have been played in Shetland for a long time and lie easily for beginners fingers. As a short cut to reading music, we put in a fingering for every note at first. However, the sooner you learn to associate notes on the staff with fingering on the fiddle, the better. Bowings, which are essential to bring out the Shetland style of playing, are marked as a guide. There are several different styles of Shetland fiddling, but we have tried to give you the bowings that are basic to all of them.

Our method of teaching was unorthodox, as we believed in teaching tunes parallel with scales as soon as the basics of holding a fid-dle and drawing a bow on open strings were mastered. For bairns who want to take up fiddle, we advise playing a preliminary scale in the key of the tune you want to play. This promotes good intonation and tone.

The stories and comments on the tunes are in dialect. This form of the dialect was spoken in Eshaness some fifty years ago and is still spoken by older people in that district. Some of the pronunciations and grammar may differ from other parts of Shetland. For people unacquainted with the dialect we refer you to the glossary at the end of the book.

We have included some contemporary tunes along with the traditional ones because there is a living tradition of Shetland fiddle music. We have also left several blank pages at the end of the book for tunes you may have collected or any that you yourself have composed.

If you get as much fun from playing these tunes as we have had teaching them, we will be amply repaid for this venture.

Gie her sheet, an let's hear dee!

Stewart, George. Shetland Fireside Tales. Lerwick: T & J Manson, 1923, p. 82.

#### BACKGROUND TO SHETLAND FIDDLE MUSIC

The violin, generally referred to as the fiddle, is the traditional instrument of Shetland. It seems to have come to Shetland either from Scotland or the Continent of Europe about 1700. Prior to that, according to Low and Hibbert, there was a two-stringed instrument called a Gue which was held on the lap and bowed. It was probably used only as an accompaniment to singing. Music for dancing was purely vocal, similar to the song-dances found in Farce today.

Traditionally, fiddle was played at weddings, for dancing, and for listening when folk "cam in about da night" (friends coming to visit for the evening). Weddings, and preparations for them at one time followed a ritual pattern, and there were tunes for each activity. Although many of these tunes have been lost, some were retained and we include two bride's marches in this book. The wedding tunes have their counterparts in Norway, where fiddlers still lead wedding processions.

Dancing was done mostly in the winter months in the croft houses when the long dark nights and short days prevented much outdoor work. Weddings were held at this time, and these coupled with Yule festivities and occasional rants kept the fiddler busy. Dancing could also occur throughout the year after a day of communal work (such as castin' peats, ripin' tatties, cairdins, etc), and at foys. Today dancing is done in public halls to country dance bands, and few Shetland Reels are performed except at weddings.

Music for dancing at one time was predominantly for the Shetland Reel, with the exception of the Muckle, or Auld, Reel, which was a slower dance and gave dancers respite from the more strenuous Shetland Reels. Tunes in a 6/8 metre were in the minority, and so far as we know only one or two dances were done to that rhythm: Da Shaalds of Foula and Da Flugga. The reel probably came in from Scotland early in the 18th century, and the earliest Shetland reel composition we have found is dated 1759 (Miss Spence's Reel).

Music for listening was either descriptive melodies, such as Da Brig and Da Mill, or dance tunes played by the old fiddler sitting by the fire. There was sometimes a special tune, such as Auld Swaara, played last thing before the fiddle was hung up for the night. Slow tunes were difficult for the fiddler to play as he found it hard to get away from the dance rhythm.

Shetland tunes are either indigenous compositions or foreign tunes adapted to Shetland style. Up until the 1900's, tunes came in from outside Shetland mainly via fishing and whaling fleets and Shetlanders sailin the Merchant Navy. Within Shetland, tunes were exchanged by fiddlers travelling from district to district in the course of their various trades, and at weddings where fiddlers from various places would play together and listen to each other. Each district had its own style and tunes, and even tunes found all over Shetland were adapted to the local style and sometimes renamed. After the turn of the century with the advent of the gramophone and later on the radio in the 1930's, Scottish and Irish music was picked up. The technique of Scottish strathspey playing was not known by most Shetland fiddlers until the first quarter of the century and strathspeys brought to Shetland were speeded up and played in reel time instead. More recently, American Country and Western has had a considerable impact.

The technique of playing Shetland fiddle music is quite distinctive, and follows more the style of the Hardanger fiddle than either Scottish or Irish, although there are some similarities with the latter. The playing of two or more strings at one time with open strings ringing, and 1 down and 3 up bowing, accented notes and "lang draws" on the back strings, and grace notes and turns as ornamentation give the music a special sound. In some melodies the tuning is altered to AEAE or ADAE.

Several collections of tunes have been made during the last fifty years and with the coming of the tape recorder many of the older fiddlers have been recorded. Fiddle music is being composed by many Shetland musicians at this time, and several books of tunes have been published. The Shetland Folk Society have published a good cross-section of traditional melodies in their folk books which were compiled in the book Da Mirrie Dancers, which is now out of print. Some gramaphone records are now available of traditional players.

An interesting change in the popularity of the fiddle today is that it has become more of a listening instrument than one for dancing. This has led to the composition of many slow airs as well as the development of many excellent accompanists to the fiddle on piano, guitar, and accordion. Dance music today is mostly Scottish or disco, and the fiddle has been replaced for the most part by other instruments. Fiddles can be heard in certain pubs, houses, and at concerts. Traditional Shetland music is played by some old fiddlers and groups of such as the Folk Society Band and the Shetland Fiddlers Society. "Da Forty Fiddlers", as the latter group is known, meet regularly and have performed in Shetland and abroad as well as produced records. Since 1973, traditional fiddle music has been taught in an ever expanding number of schools.

## FOOTNOTES

- (1) a) Flett, J. F. and T. M. Traditional Dancing in Scotland
  London: Routledge and Kegan Paul,
  1964.
- b) Fraser, Peter "Old-Time Shetland Day Wedding"

  Shetland Folk Book, Vol. 3,
  Shetland Folk Society, 1957.
- (2) a) Articles by Pat Shaw
- b) Anderson, T and Georgeson, T., ed.

Da Mirrie Dancers, Shetland Folk Society, 1971.

C) Unpublished tunes in the Tom Anderson tape collection

(3) Foys:

Celebrations that took place between fishing for one type of fish and another; i.e. White fish and herring. At this time, accounts were settled and necessary changes of crew and gear were made. Informal dances were held in the stone lodges where the fishermen slept when ashore during the fishing season.

- (4) Flett, Tom. "The Auld Reel, The Foula Reel, and the Shaalds of Foula", Shetland Folk Book, Vol. 5, Shetland Folk Society: 1971.
- (5) Ibid
- (6) Collections of music and tapes
- 1) Peter Moar (1927-)
- 2) Pat Shaw (1947-50)
- 3) Shetland Folk Society (1945-)
- 4) Tom Anderson (1949-)
- School of Scottish Studies (1973-)
- (7) Records available
- 1) Shetland Fiddlers (Leader)
- 2) Shetland Fiddlers Vol. I, II (Thule)
- Shetland Fiddling, School of Scottish Studies, Vol IV.
- 4) Silver Bow, Vol.I, (Topic)
- Shetland Folk Fiddling, Vol II (Topic)

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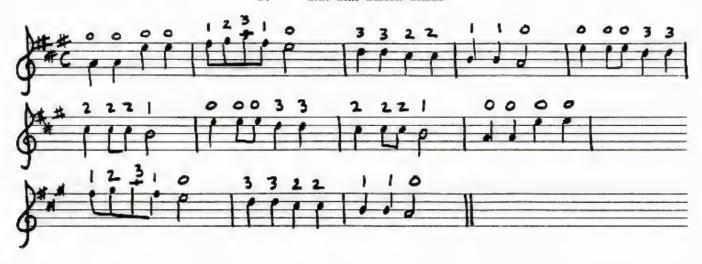
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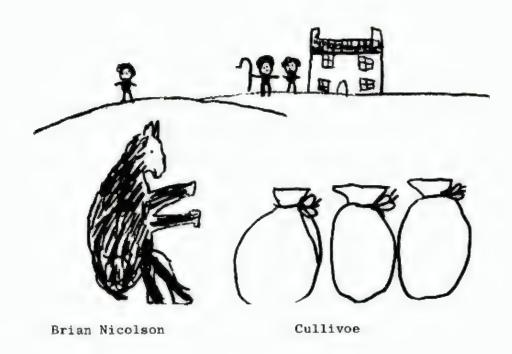
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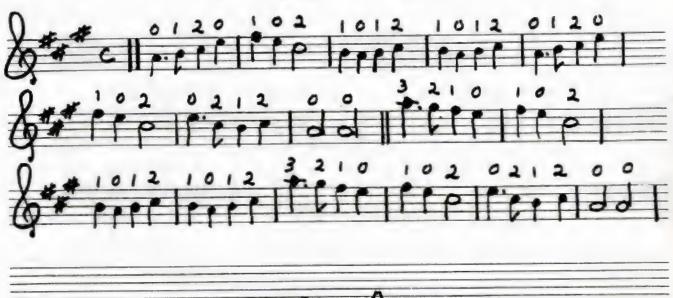


# BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP

Dis is wan o' da aisiest tuns to play whin du starts to learn da fiddle. He haes words til him an if du minds dem whin du's playing him, it's a great help.

Baa baa black sheep Haes du ony oo? Yes sir, yes sir Tree bags fou Wan fir da maister Wan fir da dame Wan fir da peerie boy At's left be his lain.









BONNIE TAMMIE SCOLLA

Brenda Robertson Burravoe

Dis tün wis ösed fir a sang. Da auld fiddlers had different names fir him: "Da Auld Mare's Gaen ta Snaraness, "I Canna Get me Mare Tamed", "Tame Her Whin da Snaa Comes", an dey played him in da key o' G as weel as A. Dis is a fine aisy wye o' him as it only oses da first twa strings o' da fiddle.

Du'll mind an keep dye second and third fingers close tagedder on baith o' da strings whin du plays him.

Whaur is du been aa da day, Boannie Tammie, boannie Tammie Whaur is du been aa da day Boannie Tammie Scolla? Up a bank an doon a brae
Boannie Minnie, boannie Minnie
Up a bank an doon a brae
Boannie Minnie Merrin



I made up dis peerie tûn efter we'd been teaching ida Nort Isles fir a twalmont. It is in waltz time ida key of A an farder on du'll find anidder een made up fir da Uyeasoond bairns. Baith o' dem fits in fine fir da St. Bernard's waltz, so whin du's learned dem maybe du'll get some een ta dance fir dee so dat du can play it at da richt speed.



"Da Broon Coo is really an auld Scottish tun. Irish fiddlers hae dere can wee o' it. Some auld Shetland fiddlers played him in G, but dis is a kind o' aisy wee o'him in A. Du can get a fine soond by keepin twa strings ringing tagedder, an if du looks at da peerie exercise du'll see foo it's don.

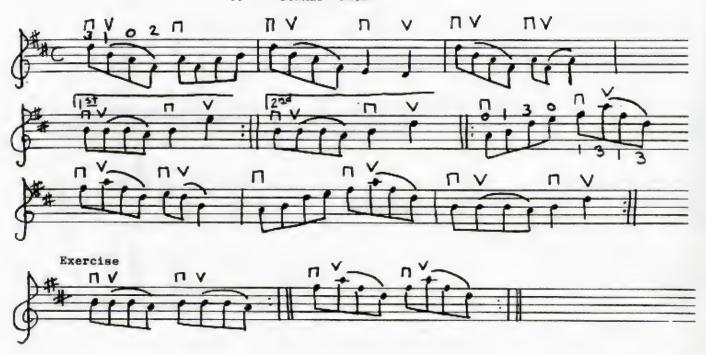
Da broon coo's broken oot an gaen amang da coarn If someone doesn't tak her oot De'll be nane left de moarn So go du in me peerie boy An grab her be da tedder Fir du's a peerie supple ting No laek de auld don faider

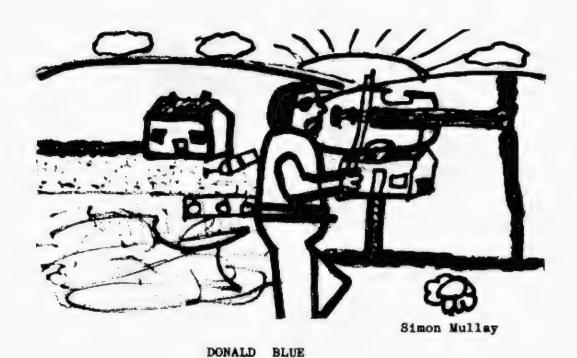


UYEASOOND BAIRNS

Cindy Ritch Uyeasound

Dis een is in da key o' D. A scale o' D haes been written oot fir dee ta follow an we're marked whaur dye fingers lie next ta een anidder. On da first string it is da first and second fingers. Dis differs fae da wye du placed dem ida tuns du's played afore. Mind an gie da lang notes plenty o' bow.

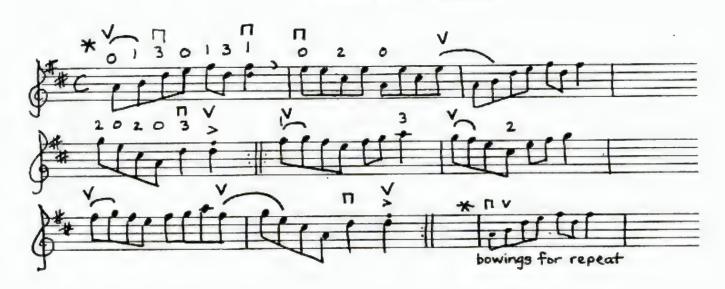




Dis tün cam fae Papa Stour whaur it wis caaed Donald Beu efter a teacher o' dat name. Da only idder place it haes been fun wis in Fetlar, but it seems at dey wir folk at flit frae Papa to Fetlar a

lang time ago so dey laikly took him wi dem.

Dere's a peerie exercise du can try here so dat du keeps dye first finger doon ida second half, an if du döes dis rightly du'll fairly get up speed.





Melvyn Leask Anderson High

# DA MERRY BOYS O' GREENLAND

Dis tün was ta'en back be Shetland fiddlers fae da whale fishing ida Artic. Da ships gyaain to Greenland to fish whales 5sed to call alang Lerwick to get men to join dem. Dey usually always wanted a fiddler. Dere is anidder wye o't played in Denmark. Nearly every Shetland fiddler played dis tün.

After du's played a lok o' tuns, come back an try da bowings dat we hae writtin in.

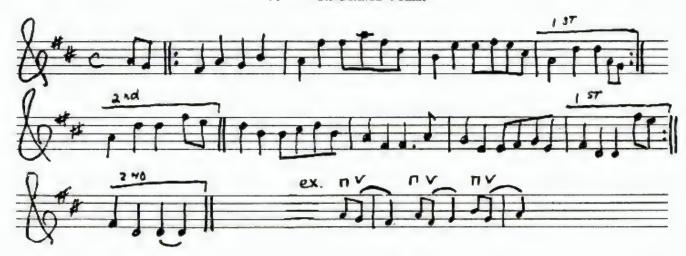




HANSEN

# SEVEN STEP POLKA

Dis tun wis osed fir an auld Shetland dance caaed be da same name. What wye it cam ta Shetland we dinna ken. Dere is a version o' him in England osed fir a different dance. Dis een is in G and du haes ta geng doon ower to da third string. Afore du plays him, try du over da scale o' G.

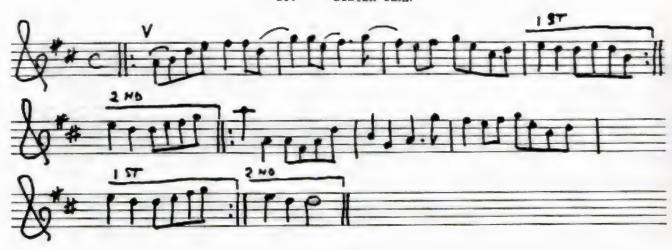


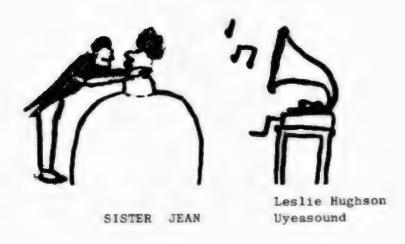


# DA BOANIE POLKA

I learned dis een frae da late Jean Pole o' Waas. Shu wis a body aboot 80 years auld whin shu played him ta me. Whin shu played him, which shu always did sittin doon, shu kinda danced da tun wi her feet so dat du could nearly see da steps o' da polka. Dere is different wyes o' him played in England whaur he's osed fir a polka as weel.

Dis is a fine aisy wye o' him. Whin du's played fir a peerie while, try da first bar o' him da wye dat we're written him at da end o' da tűn.





Dis is da best kent o' aa da polkas played in Shetland. Nearly every fiddler hed his ane wye o' him. Dis is da wye he wis played in Eshaness whin I wis peerie, an at dat time he wis a favourite dance.

My sister Jean is come frae France Ta learn wis da Polka Dance First da heel an dan da toe Dats da wye da ladies go.

Whin I was a peerie boy I had nae sense I bought me a fiddle fir 18 pence Da only tun at I could play Wis ower da hills an far away.





JACK BROKE DA PRISON DOOR

Dis een wis made up be an auld fiddler named Jack Goudie frae da Ness. Some said dat he'd hed a dunt on his head whin he wis young dat gave him queer turns. He wis a very good fiddler an made up loks o' tuns. Wan night in Lerook wi a dram in him he got a queer turn an da poliss lockit him up ida auld prison. He waited til dey wir sleepin an dan he brook doon da prison door an made fir hame as fast as he could. Da poliss wir awaur it he wis gaen, bit tocht it better to let be fir let be, so dey didna geng efter him. Whin Jack got hame he took his fiddle an made up dis tun an caaed him, "Jack Broke da Prison Door". If du listens to da first twartre notes du can hear hit sayin dat.





Lynne Johnson Brae School

## OLIVER JACK

Dis tün an da wan ower da page were baith brought back be Shetland fiddlers frae da Greenland whaling. Naebody really kens wha made dem as dey wir a lok o' fiddlers frae different places at guid ta da whaling. We do ken at Willafjord is played be fiddlers in Newfoundland an Cape Breton an dat dere dey öse muckle da sam kind o' bow strokes as we dö.

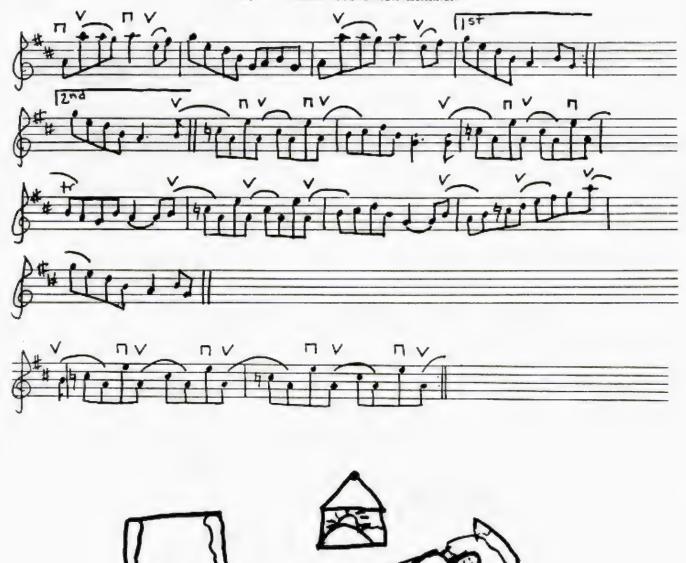




Shoan Young Anderson High

# WILLAFJORD

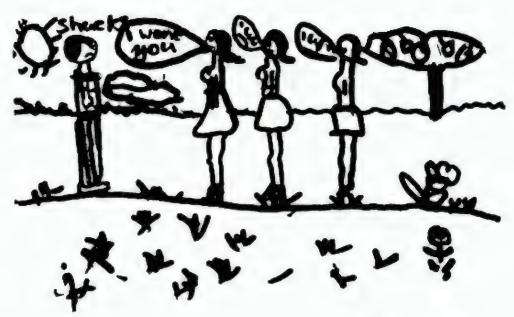
If du imagines some een gaen wi wan fit ida stank an de idder een on a broo an gaein a lunk as dey go alang, dat's da kind o' syncopated rhythm du haes to get whin du plays dis een.



SLEEP SOOND IDA MOARNIN Burravoe

Dis is a very auld tun. It is kent on da Wast side o' Shetland as "Da Gutters o' Skeld". In Nort Yell da auld fiddlers played him wi da high bass, dat is: da back string raised from G to A. Du'll notice da bow strokes ida first o' him are wan doon an tree up, da sam as du'll fin in loks o' Shetland tuns. Ida second turning, da 1 doon and 3 up comes on whit day caa da "aff beat", not at da beginning o' da bar. Dis happens ina braw twartree Shetland tuns, an is whit gies dem da queef. We're geen dee a peerie exercise so dat du can practise him.

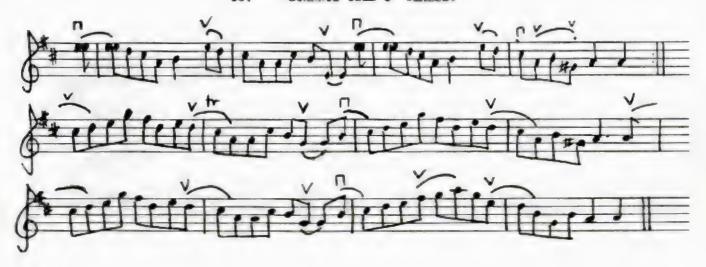


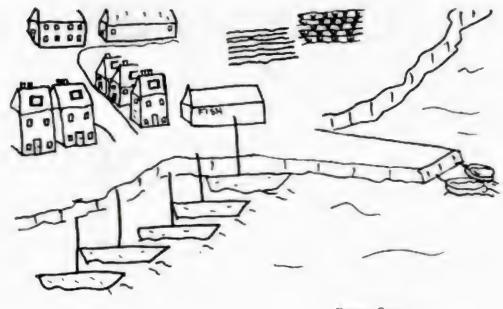


Mandy J Tulloch Mid Yell

# LASSES TRUST IN PROVIDENCE

Dis is a very fine auld tun in D. As far as we ken he wis only fun in Unst bit naebody kens wha made him up. Du'll notice at da wan doon an tree up bow strokes fairly come oot ida second half o' him. He maks a fine dancin tun fir da Shetland Reel.

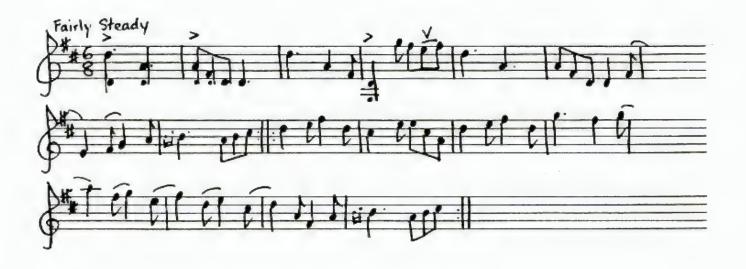




Emma Cox Baltasound

# BOANNIE ISLE O' WHALSEY

Dey wir a lok o' different wyes o' dis een bit we're gaen dee da wye da Forty Fiddlers play him. Some say dis wis taen frae Greensleeves, an auld English tun. Hoo-som-ever, he's been played in Shetland a lang time.





DA BRIG

Da great Unst fiddler Fredamann Stickle wha lived ower a hundred years ago made up dis tun whan he stod ida door o' his croft at Burrafirth an watched a sailin ship awa oot at sea rowlin as shu sailed alang. Da ship wis a brigantine so he caaed da tun "Da Brig" fir short. If du plays him kinda slow an follows whaur we're accented him du can hear da motion o' da ship.



Dis is anidder een o' Fredamann Stickle's. He wis wint to play dis een to da Laird o' Buness every Christmas moarnin an some say he bedd maist o' da day dere playin to da Laird an da folk he hed bidin wi him. I was telt dat Stickle composed dis tun as he walked alang frae his hoose in Burrafirth ta Buness. Dey were nae roads danadays, just sheepgaets. Apparently he wis nicknamed Stumpie, maybe because dere wis something wrang wi wan o' his feet. Da tun fits in at an uneven walkin speed an says at da end o' it, "Christmas Day ida Moarnin."





Magnus Robertson Burravoe

## DA DAY DAWN

I first heard aboot dis tun whin I wis aboot 14 an wis telt dat a Northmavin fiddler osed ta walk to Busta Hoose in Delting an play him ta da Laird on Yule moarin. Some years later, whin I wis spackin wi Peter Fraser, he played him ower ta me an said he wis a very auld ton. I fan oot later on at dere wis a version printed in Hibbert's an anidder een ida Midbrake Papers (in the Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh). Whin I visited da late John Irvine o' Saltness, Whalsey (Auld Glybie), he played a version an caaed him "Da Day o' Dawye." He telt me dat ida aulden days da fiddler deed ta geng aroond da hooses playin him first thing Yule moarin. In Papa Stour, he wis osed ta lead da sword dancers onto da floor fir da "Papa Stour Sword Dance". Da version here is da wye I play him. It is my opinion dat it is da auldest fiddle tun we hae, an dat he is of Norse extraction.





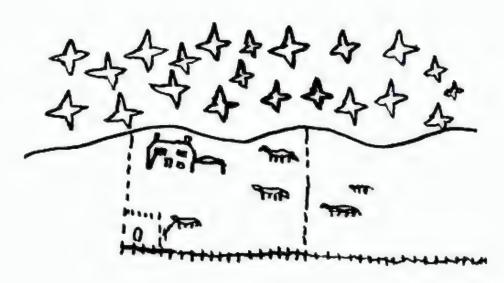
Melvyn Leask Anderson High

SOLDIER'S JOY

Dis is a very auld tun which is fun all ower da world. Dere are mony different wyes o' im even in Shetland. Dis is da wye me grandfaider played him. Although he's no a Shetland tun, he wis wan o' da favorite eens fir dancin til, an dey fairly licket at da Shetland Reel whan da fiddler played him.

We're tryed to shaw dee da bow strokes o' da aff-beat 1 doon an 3 up, at da auld fiddlers osed so dat du can git da right wye o' im. Da 1-2-3 at da end o' each turnin is whaur da dancers strampit oot da steps o' da Shetland Reel. Da fiddler sometimes wid play dem wi da aff-beat bowin so it made a lightsome change. Some o' you can draw bass while da idder eens plays him, as dey osed ta dae in Bressay.





Ian Williamson Cullivoe

# STARRY NIGHT IN SHETLAND

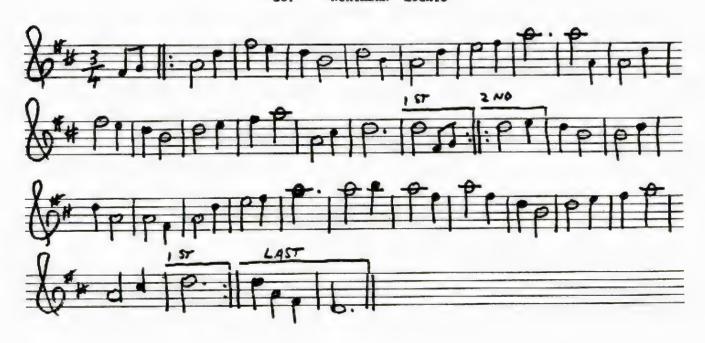
Naebody kent very much aboot waltzes until efter da turn o' da century whan day cam into Shetland frae da Sooth. Dey spread very quickly an are still popular today. We dinna ken wha composed dis een bit it cam frae da North Isles.

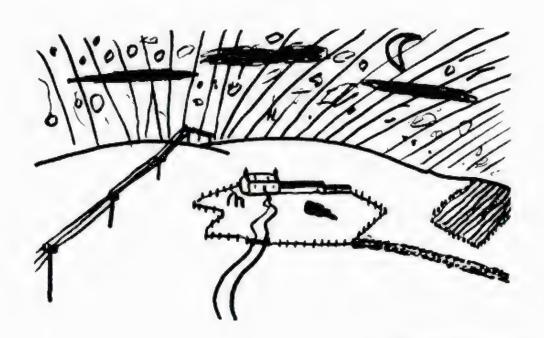
If du keeps dye fingers doon ida second half as we shaw dee ida music it maks it far aisier ta play.



GOSSABROUGH WALTZ

"Da Gossabrough Waltz" is wan o' me ain tuns at I composed at a Regatta Dance in Yell about 1936. I wis playin fir a St Bernard's Waltz an couldna mind what to play fir an encore. I just started playin an dis is what cam oot. It is a fine tun fir exercising dye forth finger.



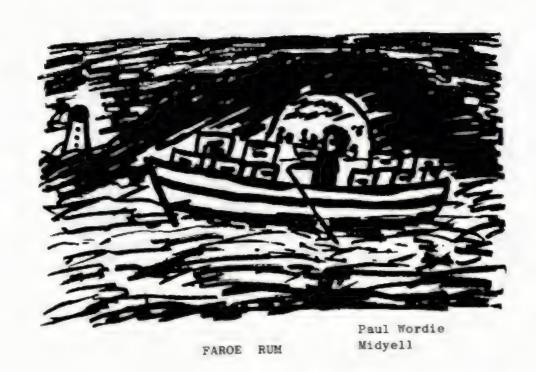


NORTHERN LIGHTS

Christopher Ritch Baltasound

Dis is a tun I made up whin I wis leading da Isleburgh Dance Band. It goes fine wi da twa at comes afore dis een. Vagaland, T. A. Robertson, wrote words fir dis which du'll fin in Laeves fae Vagaland. As du kens, da nordern lights is just anidder name fir da merrie dancers.

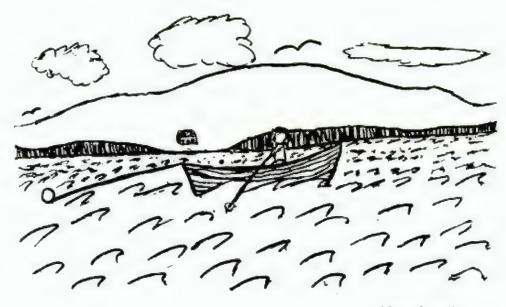




A tun frae da days o' Faroe smacks. Some say it wis a tun aboot da smuggling a tobacca an speerits it guid on in yun days.

Dis is a fine een ta practise da wan doon an tree up as he starts aff wi dat.





Alan Leask Brae School

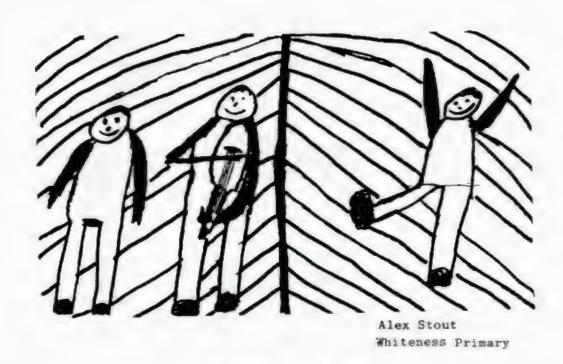
## AANDOWIN AT DA BOW

A tun about fishin. Whin dey wir waitin fir dir lines ta fish dey keepit da boat about ee place. If it wis a fine day it just meant pooin peerie-wise but if it was wind it took a braw grain o rowin just to hadd her in ee place. Dis was caaed aandowin, as da rhyme says it wis made up be da late Andrew Abernathy o' Twatt: (da rhyme follows da first half o' da tun).

No gaen forward, No gaen trow Bidin aboot ee place Aandowin at da bow

Du fairly haes to cleek da bow ida second half o him ta get him right.

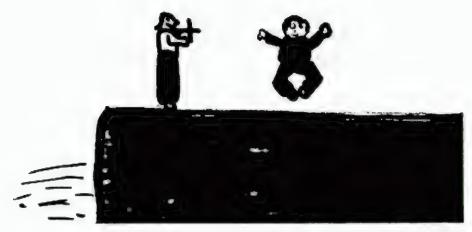




DA FOREFIT O' DA SHIP

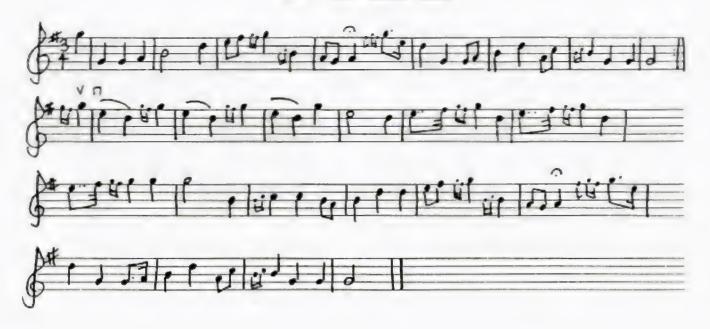
Dis is een o' wir favorite tuns an we tink it cam frae Unst. If du could tink du wis ida fo'castle o' a sailin ship an heard da sea brakin o'er da boo, du'll be able to play him right. We hae pittin accents ida music ta tell dee whaur ta lay on da bow wi a measur o strength sae dat du can hear whaur da sea stricks da boo.





Laureen Johnson Uyeasound DA GREENLAND MAN'S TUNE

Dis is anidder een brought back fae da Greenland whaling days. Jamsie Laurenson o' Fetlar tocht he wis a listening tun, and might o' hed Yakki words.



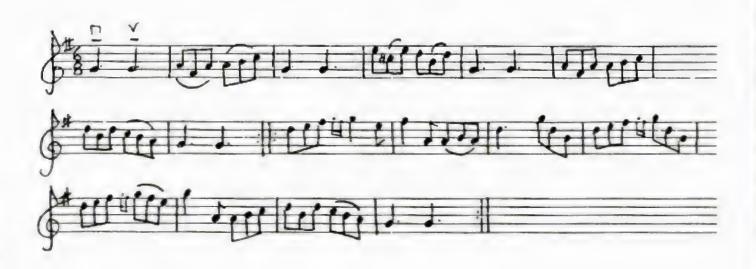


Steven Spence Baltasound

# UNST BRIDAL MARCH

Whenever a weddin wis held ida auld days dey always had a fiddler ta lead da procession. Dis tün wis ösed in Unst te lead da wedding company fae da kirk efter da couple wis married. Dere were very few roads danadays, so mony a time da company hed to buks ower broos an hedder an sometimes it wis a job fir da fiddler ta keep on playin. Dey still dö dis in Norrowa bit dere in some places dey play upo da Hardanger fiddle.

We're written baith weddin tuns twa wyes because at wan time dey maybe were played wi da twa back strings raised. So du can try baith wyes an plaise deesel which wye du plays dem.





Debbie Scott Bells Brae

### DA BRIDE'S A BOANNIE TING

Dis is annider wedding tun frae Unst. Some says hit wis played whin da bride can trow da door o' da hoose efter da procession fae da kirk an some says it wis annider march at dey played on da wye fae da kirk. Dey were leakly bride's marches in every district o' Shetland at wan time bit a lok o' dem haes been lost, mair's da peety.



DA BRIDE'S A BOANNIE TING





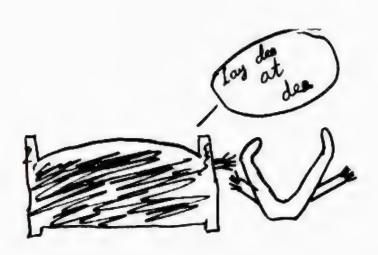


Lynda Keenan Brae School

DA FERRY REEL

Dis een comes fae Yell an it seems it a fiddler comin hame fae a weddin set him doon ta rest upon a broo. He heard music comin fae a hole ida grund an he could hear da soond o dancin as weel. He kent it wis da trows haddin a rant bit he wisna feard an sat still until he'd gottin da tun in his head. Whin he got hame he never guid ta bed until he wis able to play him upo da fiddle. Bobby Jamieson an Willie Barclay Henderson o Nort Yell played dis een wi da high bass, dat is, da back string set up ta A.





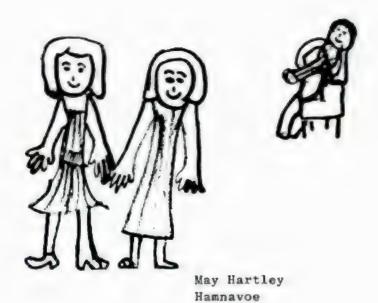
LAY DEE AT DEE

Lawrence Johnson Brae J. H. School

Anidder een fae Yell. Ida haaf days whin da men cam ashore dey sleepit in a peerie stane hoose caaed a lodge. Dere wis only wan bed at dey aa sleepit in. If some een took up ower muckle room, da een next ta him wid say, "Lay dee at dee, boy". Dis is anidder eeen played wi da high bass.

We're tried ta show dee whaur da ringing strings comes intae dis een. Du can döe dis wi loks o' tüns ida book.





MISS SPENCE'S REEL

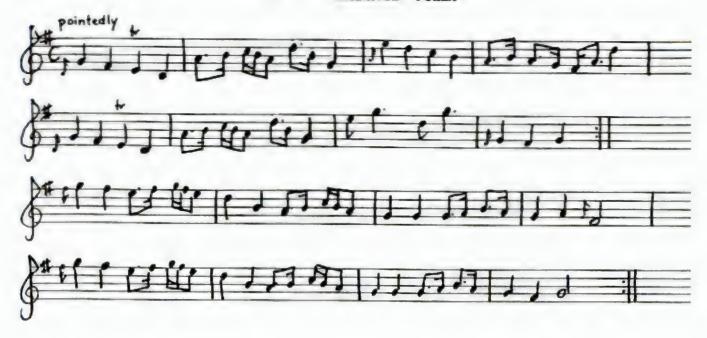
Dis een wis made up be a man caaed John Anderson o' Voe awa back in 1759. He wis playin at a dance ida Hoose o' Windhoose in MidYell an dey were dat mony Spence lasses dere dat he caaed him, "Miss Spence's Reel." Du can ôse da high bass fir dis een tôe.



DA AULD RESTING CHAIR

Mr & Mrs Anderson Hamna Voe. Tom's Grandparents

Dis is a slow air o' me ain at I composed in 1968 whin I fan at Hamnavoe, whaur me grandfaider bedd, da brucks o' da auld resting chair dat he sat upo whin he wis learnin me ta play da fiddle.





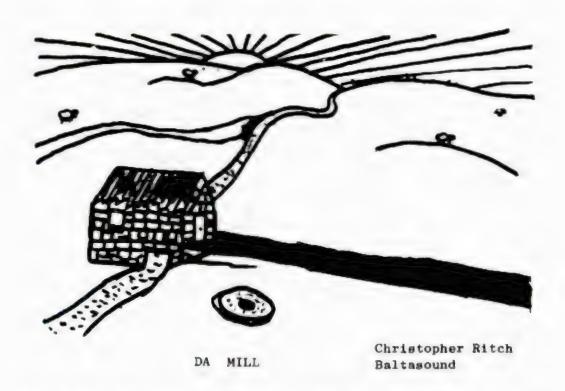
## HAMNAVOE POLKA

Dis is wan o' da first tuns I learned fae me grandfaider. He never kent da name o't but I caa it "Da Hamnavoe Polka" cause dat wis whaur he bedd. I never heard it ony wye else ootside o' Eshaness.

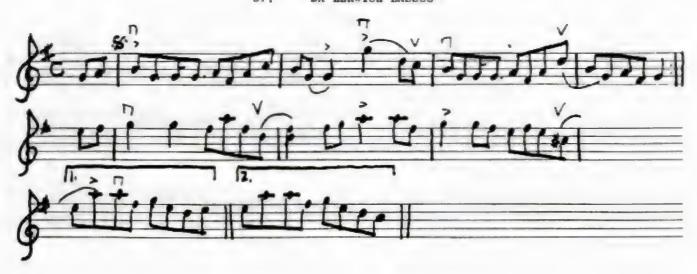


Dis tun was written in 1936 whin I came up to Unst to visit a schoolmaister friend o' mine. It happened it dat moarnin wis da prizegiving an I wis axed to play at it. I guid fir a walk an da tun cam in me head. Da place I wis walkin ower wis caued da Houll Road bit I tocht da Road ta Houll soonded better.





Ida auld days dey wir nae shop loaf bread an baps, an whit shops dere wis keepit very little floor or aetmael. Folk grund dir bere an aets in mills. Dey wir two kinds: da haand mill it wis keepit ida barn an da watermill it stod it da side o da burn. Sometimes whin dey hed a lok ta grind and dey wir plenty o' water dey wid grind maist o' da night. Dis tun wis made up be some een ta eemitate da motion o' da mill an du can hear foo shu rins roond an roond an sometimes seems to haver whin shu gits ower muckle coarn. Nea doobt dey wir mony mill tuns in Shetland at ee time an we're still finnin dem here an dere. In Norrawa dey hed mill tuns as weel, an dey still mind a lok o' dem.





Lyn McCulloch Sound Primary

## DA LERWICK LASSES

As far as we ken dis een cam fae Unst an I aye tocht it wis wan o' da best o' da auld reels. If du can git a real stop-go effect ida second half o' him laek whit da auld fiddlers did fir da dancing it fairly pits a queef itil him.

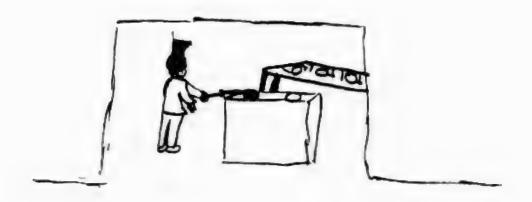




DA SCALLOWA LASSES

Dis is wan o' da auldest Shetland tuns an wis fun as ower Shetland. Dis wye o' him comes fae da Midbrake Papers an seems to be da auldest een o' da lot.



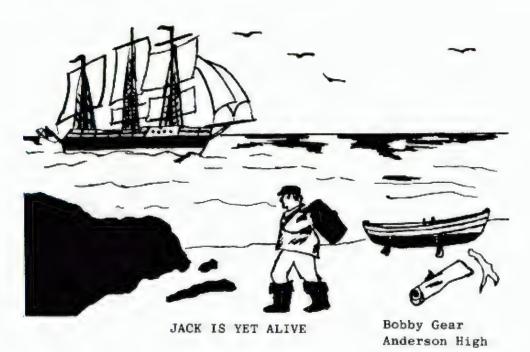


Gwen Wiseman Hamnavoe Primary

### DA GALLEY WATCH

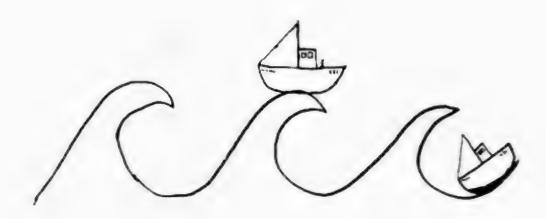
Dis is an auld tun which was played nearly all o'er Shetland. It meybe wis made up be some een dat wis sailin ida Merchant Navy. Da galley is da kitchen o' da ship an da watch refers to da men dats on duty on deck. Sometimes een would oag in quietly whin da officer wisna lookin an mak a cup o' tae. Dis wis kent as da galley watch. Dis version wis played in wir hoose in Eshaness whin I wis young.





Dere wis aince a fiddler caaed Jack it was taen wi da Press Gang. Dey took him oot o' a boat alang wi da rest o' da crew an naebody kent what hed happened te dem. Dey tocht da boat hed been lost wi everybody in her. Dey were pitten ida Navy an Jack wis awa fir five years. Finally dey slippit him an he made fir hame as fast as he could. Dey wir nae roads denadays so it took him a braw while to win hame. Whin he got to da hoose it wis dark, an whin he guid in his midder tocht he wis a feyness. Hooever, shu saw it he wis real an made him a cup o' tae. Whin he'd finished his tae he rekked doon da fiddle it was hangin' upa da wa' an efter he'd gotten her tuned he played a tun. His midder wha kent aa da tuns at dat time saed, "Boy I'm never heard yon-een afore; what's yun?" Jack said, "Yun's een I made up as I wis maakin fir hame an I caa him, "Jack is Yet Alive". Dis wis da first tun I learned fae me grandfaider.





Andrea Pottinger Hamnavoe Primary

### SAIL HER OWER DA RAFTTREES

Dere wis mony a coorse day ida haaf days whin dey were gyaain awa oot maybe thirty miles off fae da land til Ronas Hill lay laek a cummelled boat ipa da water. Iver sae aften da wind wid birse up an afore ye kent it wis blawin dat strong it du had ta tak in maybe aa da reefs at wis ida sail. Da fiddler, whaever he wis it made up dis een, tocht upa da seas it dey wir sailin troo as high as da ruif ida hoose. Du can hear ida first turning foo da tün gengs right fae da back string o' da fiddle up te da first een an back agan just laek da boat wid a dön running trow da seas.





DEIL STICK DA MINISTER

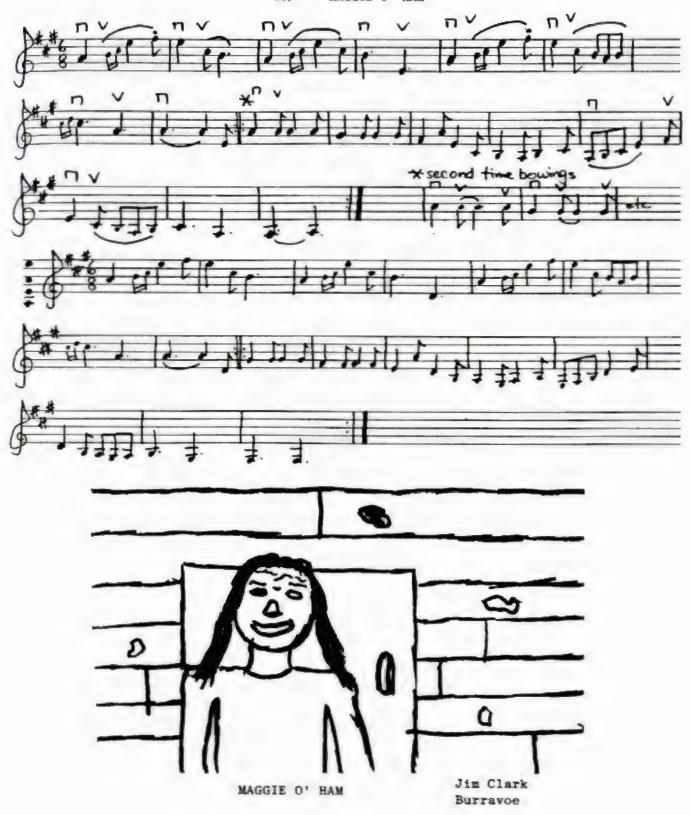
Ida auld days da minister never laekit da fiddle, no laek nooadays whin ministers play da fiddle an sometimes get fiddlers to play da hymns ida kirk. Dis tün wis made up whin a very streek minister in Unst guid around brakkin aa' da fiddles he could lay his haands on. Hooever dere wis ee fiddler it hoided his fiddle an da minister couldna fin him. A peerie while later a new tün appeared ida parish an was caaed "Deil Stick da Minister". Nooadays it wid be caaed a protest tün.





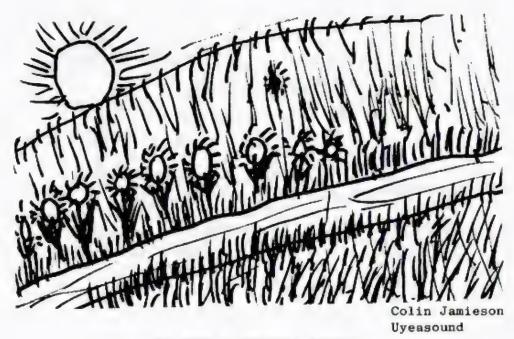
KALE AN KNOCKIT COARN Baltasound

Da name o' dis tun is an auld Shetland mael. It translates as, "Cabbage and Bruised Oats." The "k" in knockit is pronounced, which wis da wye wi aa words beginning wi "kn" in Shetland ida auld days. Dis is really no a Shetland tun ava. He's Scottish an his real name is "Bob o' Fettercairn", but he's been played dat lang aa ower Shetland an dey're dat mony wyes o' him at maist Scots widna ken him noo.



Dere's no an awful lok we ken aboot dis een. He comes fae Foula bit wha Maggie o' Ham wis ah'm never fun oot. It wid seem ta wis dat he might hae been 'Ssed fir da Shaalds o' Foula dance at ee time as he is dat kind o' a tlin. Noo we're written him twa wyes, da first wye is wi da strings as du usually sets dem bit da Foula man it I heard playin' him hed his two back strings set to A an E Dis alters da fingering.

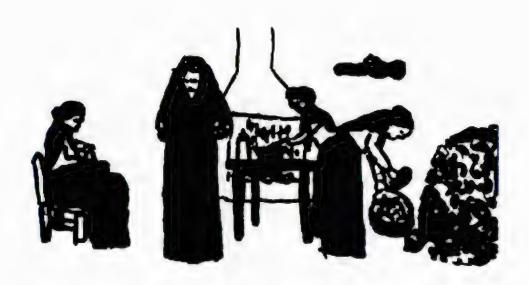




DA BURN O' WEINDIA LITTLE

Dis een is fae Hillsook an is caaed efter a burn it ran doon fae Pakin ta da sea. Nooadays hits naething bit a stripe, bit dey said a while ago hit was a braw big burn an dey could hear da hush o da water rinnin doon wi a fine still night. Du can hear da soond o' da burn whin da fiddle rings oot apo da lower strings ida first half o' him.





Margaret Robertson Mid Yell J.H.

# DA FASHION O' DA DELTING LASSES

Some folk say it dis een is taen fae a Scottish tun caaed da "Duke o' Perth". What wye he cam ta Shetland we niver ken bit da fiddlers fan oot it he could be turned in til a Shetland Reel an so dey 8sed him fir dat.

Dey said at da Delting lasses wir awful fine dancers an it becam da fashion ta dance laek dem. Idder eens said dey wir awful fashie so maybe dere's a bit o' afftak ida name o' him. Sometimes whin I play him hit minds me o' what da auld folk telt me aboot da Bad Day in 1900 whin sae mony Delting men were lost at da fishing, an hoo da lasses stôd ida doors o' da hooses aye lippinin to see da boats comin sailin in trow da voe. Efter dat naebody in dat district hed da hert ta dance an onywye maist a what wis left moved awa an noo da hooses aa stand empty.



Dis tun was wan dat was aye spoken aboot whin I wis young bit I never heard onybody playin him. When I wis startin' to read music, Muckle Willie Thomson o' Tanook gave me a loan o' some manuscripts an dis tun wis amang dem. I tochtna muckle o' him whan I tried him ower first bit efter I sat an watched a hen fir a while I began ta get da wye o' it. Later on whin I met up wi Peerie Willie Johnson and we played him tigedder on the Children's Hour in 1948, he became very popular.

If du's gaen ta get da right clag o' da hen, du'll hae ta follow da fingerings an bowings as marked. Mind du disna play him ower fast cause a hen aye took her time whin shu scratched ida midden.



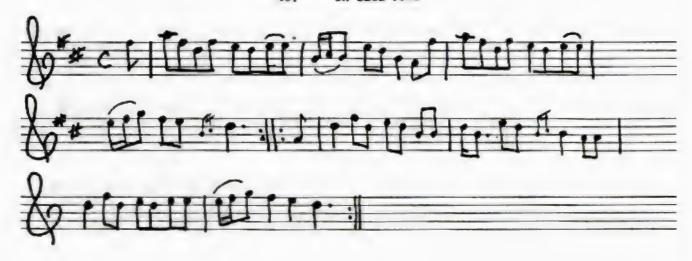


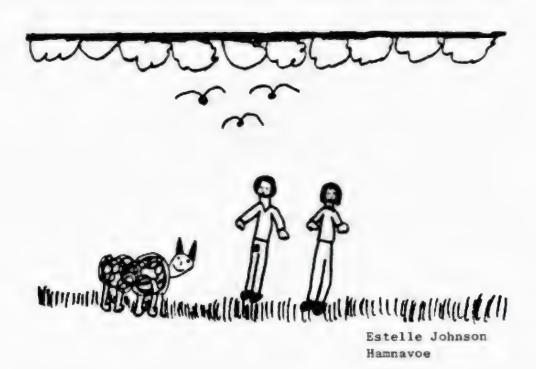
Melvyn Leask Anderson High

## DA BOANNIE LASS O' BEKKA HILL

Dis is a tin fae da Wast Side o' Shetland. I got him fae Peter Fraser o' Finnigirt an he aye played him a peerie bit slower dan da usual Shetlan' reel. Dey were words at ee time. I mind ee verse an it says:

If I hed anidder sixpence I wid buy anidder gill I wid axe da fiddler te play "Da boannie lass o' Bekka Hill".





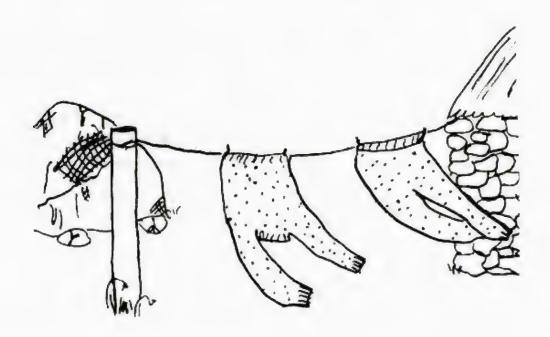
### DA BLUE YOWE

Dis is anidder tun o' Freddie Stickle's. Wan day whin he wis at da cru an dey wir rooin sheep twa folk fell oot aboot wha owned a yowe. Whin Freddie cam hame he composed dis tun an du can hear da folk flytin as du plays him. Da colour o' da yowe wis a dark blue bit dat strain o' sheep is aa dead oot noo.

PEERIE HOOSE AHINT DA BURN

In Waas dis tûn wis caaed "Hae ye ony moorit oo?" an in Eshaness an Nort Yell it wis caaed "Da Doonfaa' o' Paris". Da peerie hoose wis what some auld folk caaed an ootside water closet. Da tûn is really a variant o' an English tûn caaed "Fay's Hornpipe" bit he's been played aa ower Shetland fir mony a year.





#### AULD SWAARA

Dis een is a lament fir fishermen wha were lost at sea ida time o' da Haaf fishing. Naebody ida auld days laeked to caa a dead body be dere name. Dey wir aye spoken aboot as "her it belanged ta me", or "da bairn's faider". Ivery fisherman at dat time wore next til his skin a heavy knitted singlet caaed a jupie usually made oot o' 3 ply black wirsit. Dis wis referred to as da swaara, or dark jupie, so da name really means da auld swaara jupie.

I got dis tun fae da late Peter Fraser, wha telt me dat his grandfaider aye said da tun was composed in deep sorrow, and da story o' da jupie fae my faider.

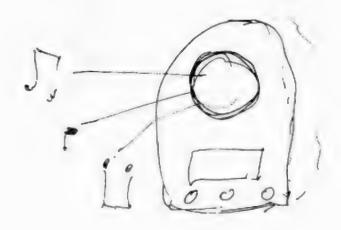




DEBBIE'S REEL

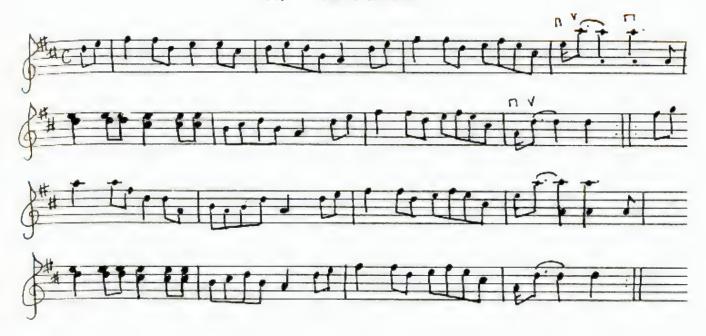
I made up dis tun to Debbie Scott, wan o' my pupils.





# RUBY'S SUCCESS

Dis is a tun composed be Steven Spence, wan o' da young fiddlers fae Uyeasoond in Unst. His midder Ruby wan a competition run be Radio Aberdeen whaur shu had te say whit band was playing. Whin shu wan it he made up dis tun fir her.

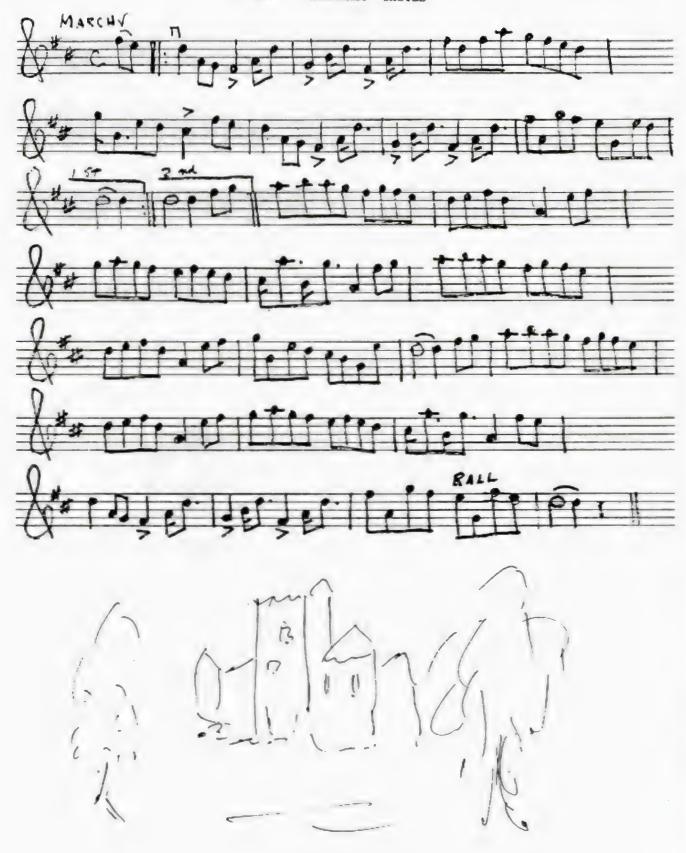




Eunice Henderson Bells Brae

# RADIO SHETLAND

Dis is annidder wan o' Steven Spence's it he composed whin Radio Shetland started broadcasting.



AIRTHREY CASTLE

I made up dis tun wan moarnin at 5.00 a.m. whin I waakened up wi da notes rinnin thro me haed. Airthrey Castle wis da place whaur we hed da Summer School run be Stirling University.

itil - into

J

ivery - every

jupie - woollen singlet, undershirt

da - the

doe - do

dat - that dee - you

deesel - yourself

denadays - in those days dere - there is or

there are

K kail - cabbage kirk - church knockit - bruised laekit - liked laikly - likely lain - alone lang - long licket - stepped smartly lippin - expect lok - lot lunk - half leap a walk with bopping action M maist - most midden - compost heap midder - mother mirrie dancers - aurora muckle - big oag - creep, sneak oan - own ony - any oo - wool dse - use oot - out owre - over peerie - little pittin - put pooin - pulling Q queef - lift, played with excitement R raftrees - rafters rekked - reached ripin tatties - digging potatoes rooin - pulling wool from sheep by hand rowlin - rolling S sae - so sheep gaets - sheep paths or tracks shu - she stank - ditch stod - stood

S stramp - stamp with feet streek - strict strick - strike stripe - strip of water or small burn swaara - heavy knitted wooller underwear usually of a dark shade T ta, te - to taen - taken tattie - potato tagedder - together ting - thing tink - think tocht - thought tree - three trow - through trows - fairies, little people tun - tune twa - two twalmonth - twelve months twartree - two or three wan - one whaur - where whin - when whit - what, which win - get wint - accustomed wir - our wirsit - woollen yarn wis - was wis - us wisna - was'nt wye - way Y Yakki - Eskimo yowe - ewe yun - that

Tom Anderson was born in 1910 in Eshaness, Shetland, into a musical family. He learned at age eight to play fiddle from his grand-father and uncle, and except for an interruption until he was ten when mourning for a family death in the house dictated a two-year ban on music-making, he has played ever since. At age thirteen he learned to read music and started playing for dancing and at nineteen he organised members of his family into the first Eshaness band.

In 1932 Tom built one of the first radio sets in Eshaness and ran a radio business for four years. He learned many Scottish and Irish tunes from radio and the early gramaphone records.

Tom has been involved in music his whole life, but until he retired from his job as an insurance agent in 1971, it was always a parttime hobby. He started collecting tunes at age sixteen from the many Shetland fiddlers he met at various social gatherings. In 1949 he acquired one of the early tape recorders and started off his now extensive tape collection. He joined the Shetland Folk Society when it was formed in 1946 and led the Folk Society Traditional Fiddle Band from 1947-65. He was founder member and leader of the Shetland Fiddlers Society (Da Forty Fiddlers) from 1960-1980. In 1972, he became the first Traditional Fiddle Instructor for the Shetland Education Committee. He is Principal Tutor at the Heritage of Scotland Summer School in Traditional Scottish music in 1979 at the University of Stirling.

Tom has broadcast regularly for radio and television since 1947. He has toured in Scotland, England, Europe, Canada and USA. He has several records to his credit and has composed some 500 tunes.

In 1977 he was awarded the M.B.E., for his services to Shetland music, and in 1981 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Stirling.

#### PAMELA SWING

Born in 1953 in Chicago, Illinois, Pam was raised in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. She graduated in 1976 from Wesleyan University with a B.A. cum laude with high honours for a thesis written on Shetland fiddle music. She is the granddaughter of the well-known radio news commentator Raymond Gram Swing.

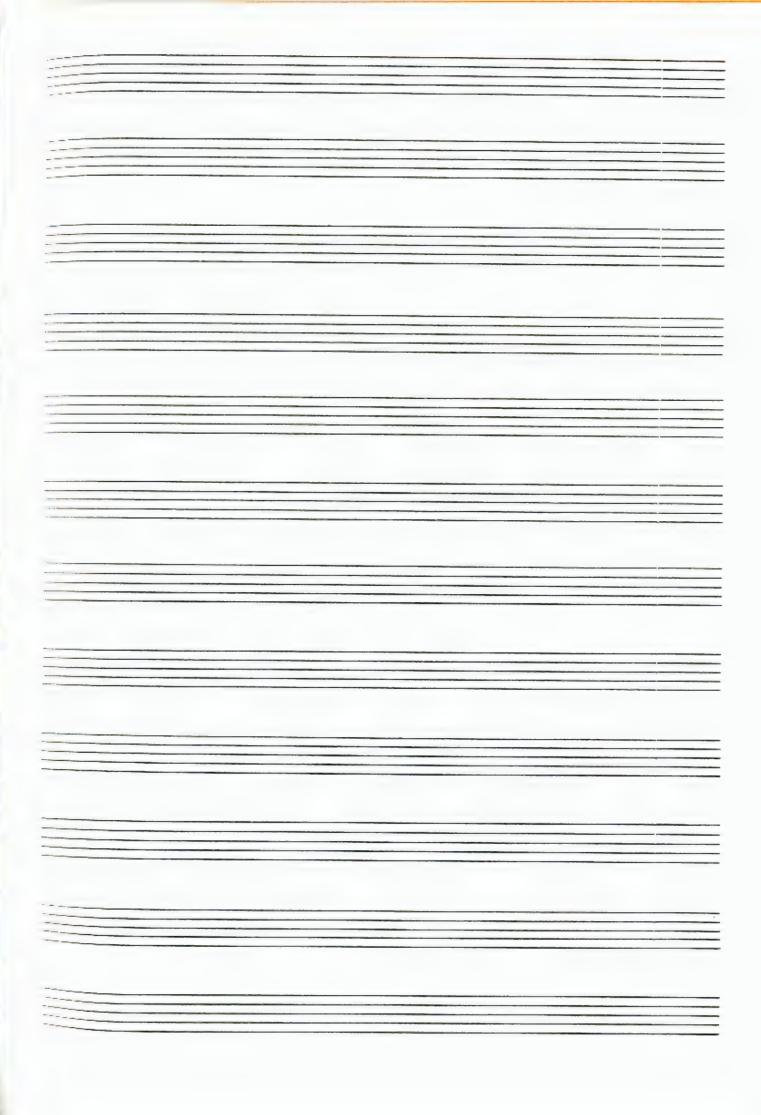
Pam first came to Shetland in 1973 to study traditional fiddling with Tom Anderson. She has made three trips since then, one of them for a year. She helped Tom to introduce traditional fiddle instruction in the North Isles of Shetland in 1974. She was the first overseas classical musician who successfully learned to play Shetland traditional fiddle music in the authentic style.

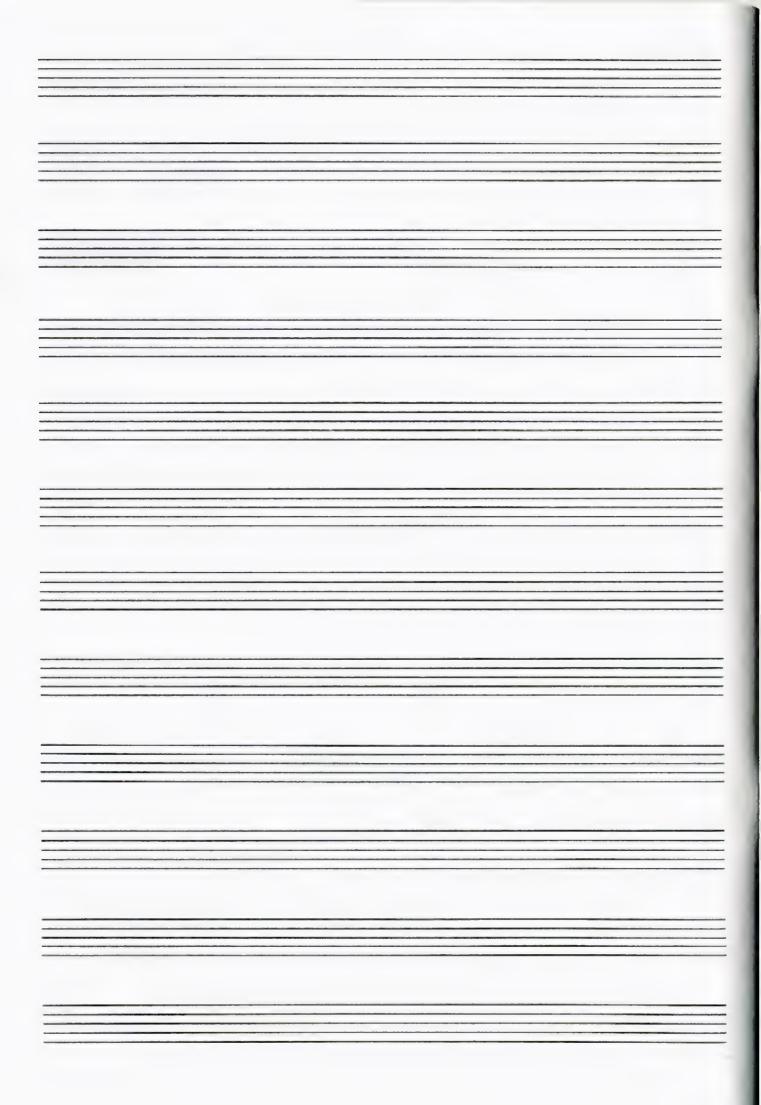
Pam has participated in three states as a Visiting Artist in the Schools, a programme funded in two of the States by the National Endowment for the Arts. She is presently doing graduate work in folklore at the University of Texas at Austin.

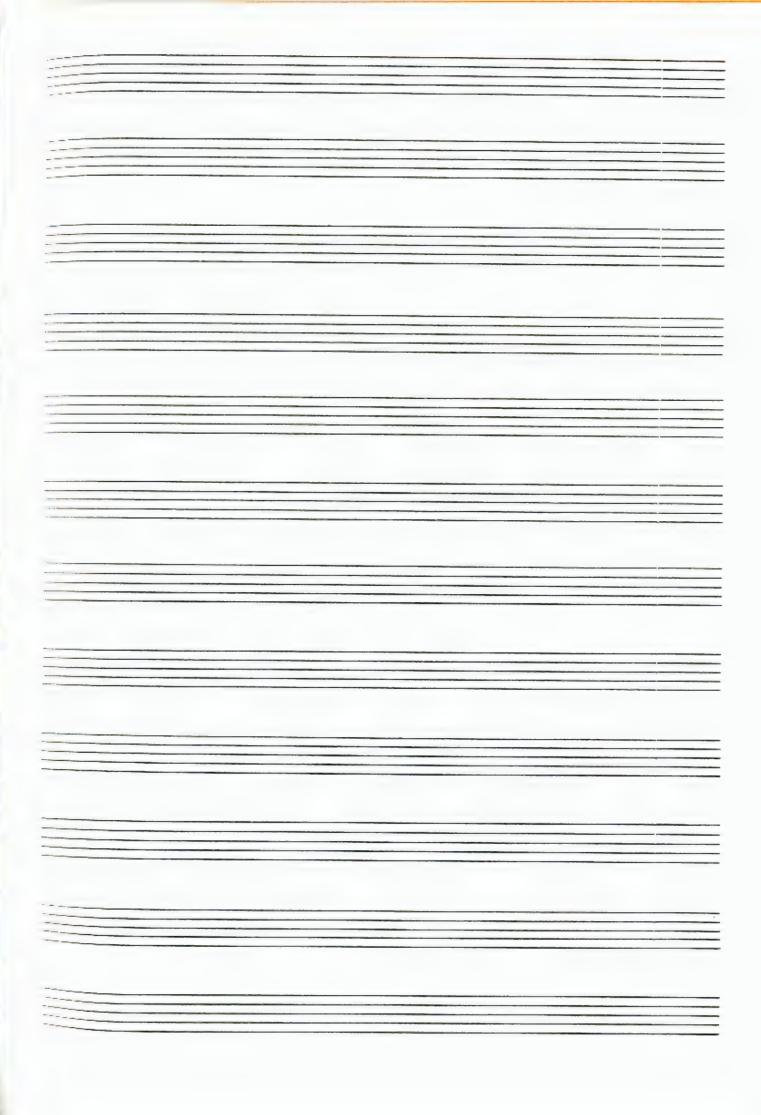


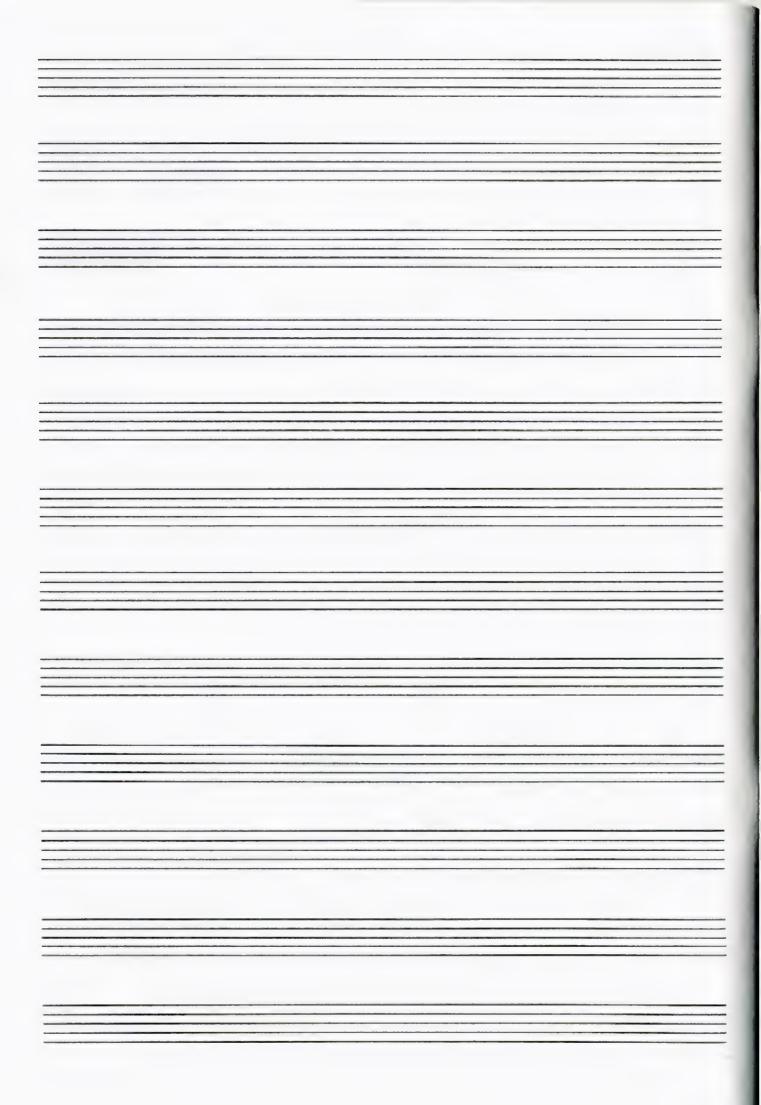


(Map not to scale)







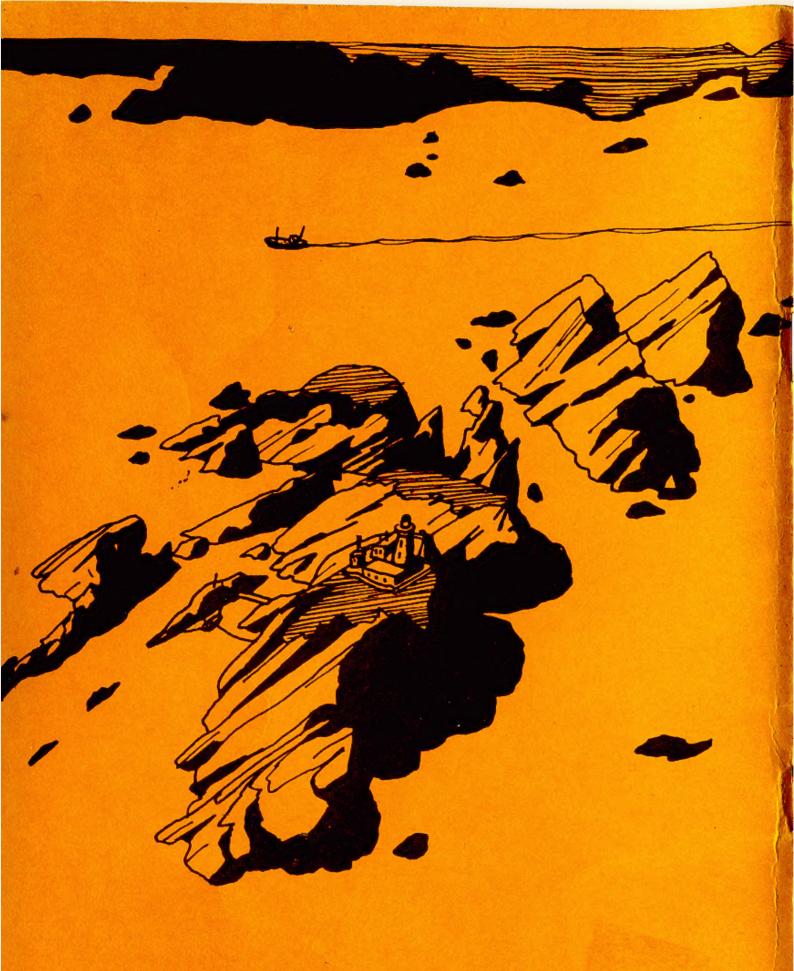


The compilation of this work, which is accompanied by a cassette of the fiddle music, has been produced by the Continuing Education Division at the University of Stirling.

Copies may be purchased from:

Educational Policy and Development Continuing Education The University STIRLING FK9 4LA





Muchele Hugga

Wills 79