SOME OF OUR TUNES

59 new
Scottish Country Dance
tunes.

by

Duncan Smith

David South

Matthew Robertson

Dal Segno Music

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Scottish Country Dance
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Canberra, Australia, Easter 2011)
Second edition – May 2011

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INTRODUCTION

by David South.

The idea for this book first came to me when Matthew Robertson and I were preparing to take a band to the 2011 National Folk Festival in Canberra.

I had hoped to have recorded another CD to sell at the Festival. Unfortunately, time beat me and I decided to maybe put a small book of original tunes together. The initial thought was that I had a few unpublished tunes that I would like to share with the world and that it was about time I had released a follow-up to my book from 1996.

Well, the idea grew … as they do!

Looking through some of the band arrangements of the previous ten years, I had realised that there were quite a few tunes penned by both Matthew and our good friend Duncan Smith, who plays piano with us regularly. So I asked them if they had any others that they might like to include.

Along with my own (which numbered more than I realised as well), we've managed to assemble a collection of 59 "new" tunes. "New" meaning they haven't been published before, as some date back as far as 1980. There is a mixture of rhythms, tempos and styles. Hopefully, you will find something in here that suits your style.

Most of the tunes are standalone tunes. However, some are part of a set and these sets appear at the end of the book. The stories behind each of the tunes appear below them and are written by the composer.

A special note about the layout

You will notice that I've taken the unusual step of notating both the tunes *and basslines* along with chord symbols. Mostly, the basslines will be playable by a double-bass, electric-bass, or the left hand of the piano, without much alteration. Occasionally, they might be a little high for a pianist's left hand, or a little low for the range of a double-bass. For whatever instrument you're playing, the general approach is – if it's too high, transpose it down an octave; if it's too low, transpose it up an octave.

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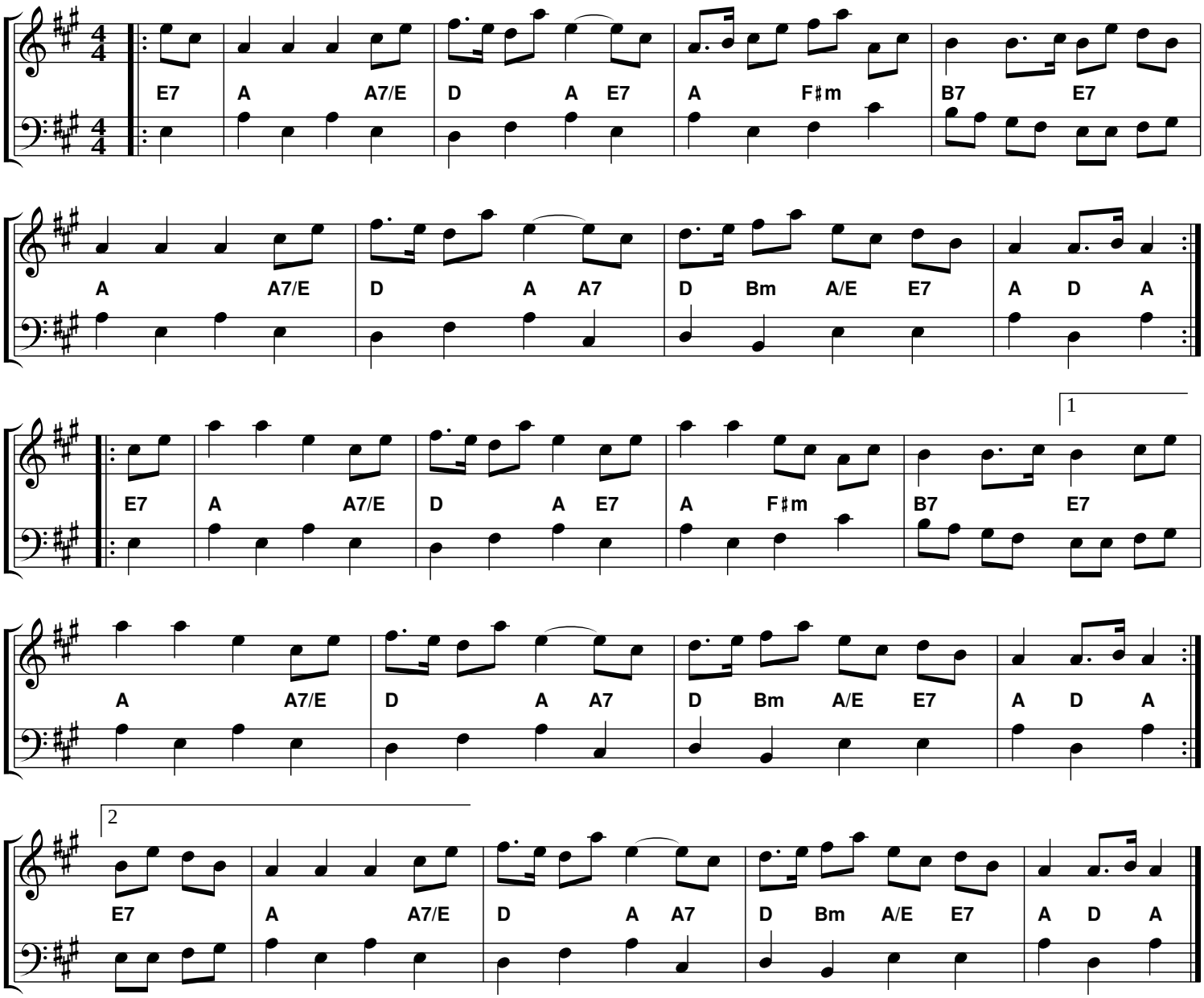
Composed by

* David South; ** Matthew Robertson; *** Duncan Smith

THE AQUINAS MARCH

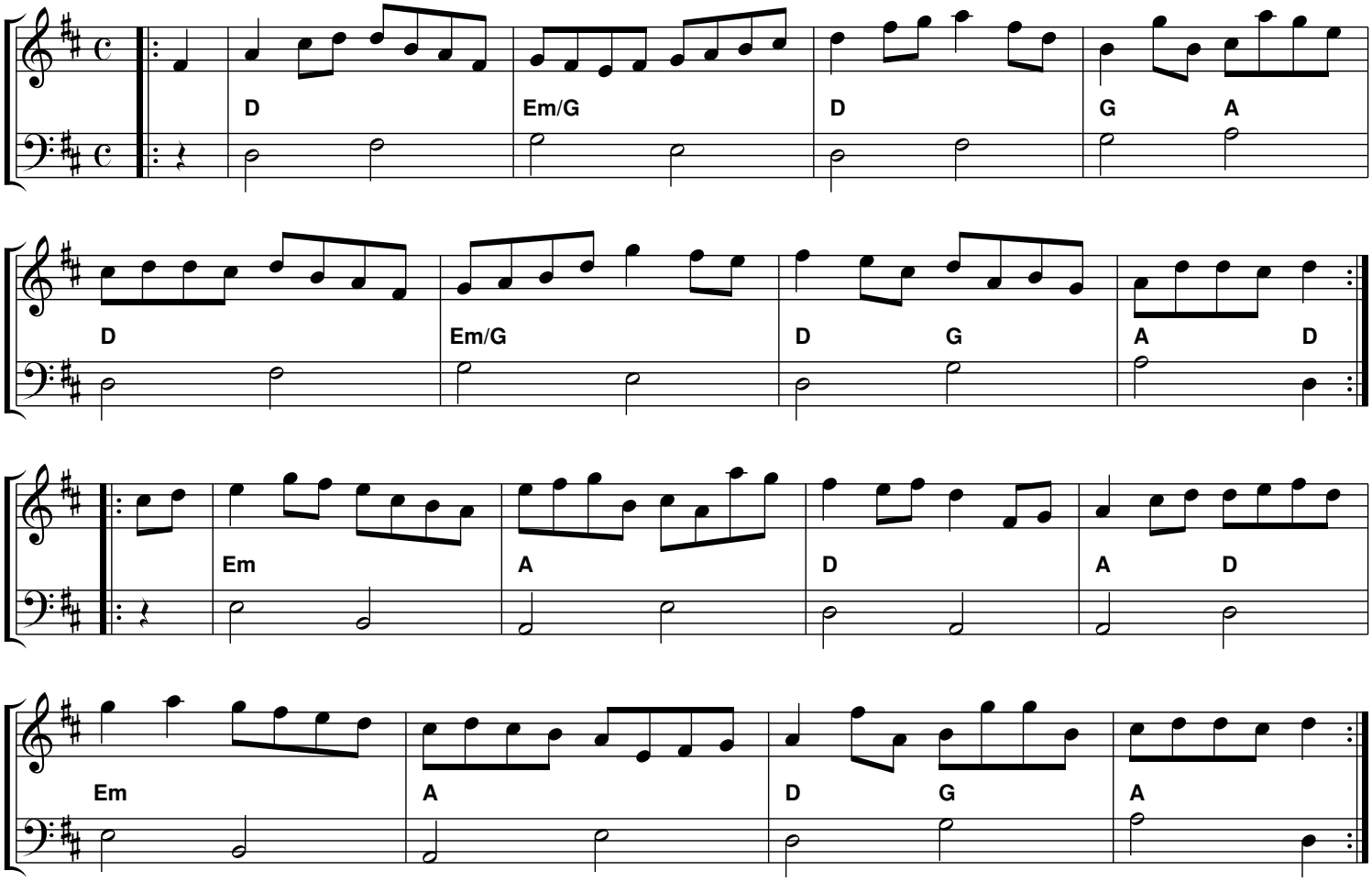
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1999)



Composed in 1999 while I was a staff musician at the 24th Australian Winter School. The venue for the School was Aquinas College in Perth, Western Australia. I composed this tune on the last day and was able to play it on the final night with Peter Elmes & his Band from New Zealand, who were also staff musicians for that particular School.

CARTER EMERSON SMITH (Reel)

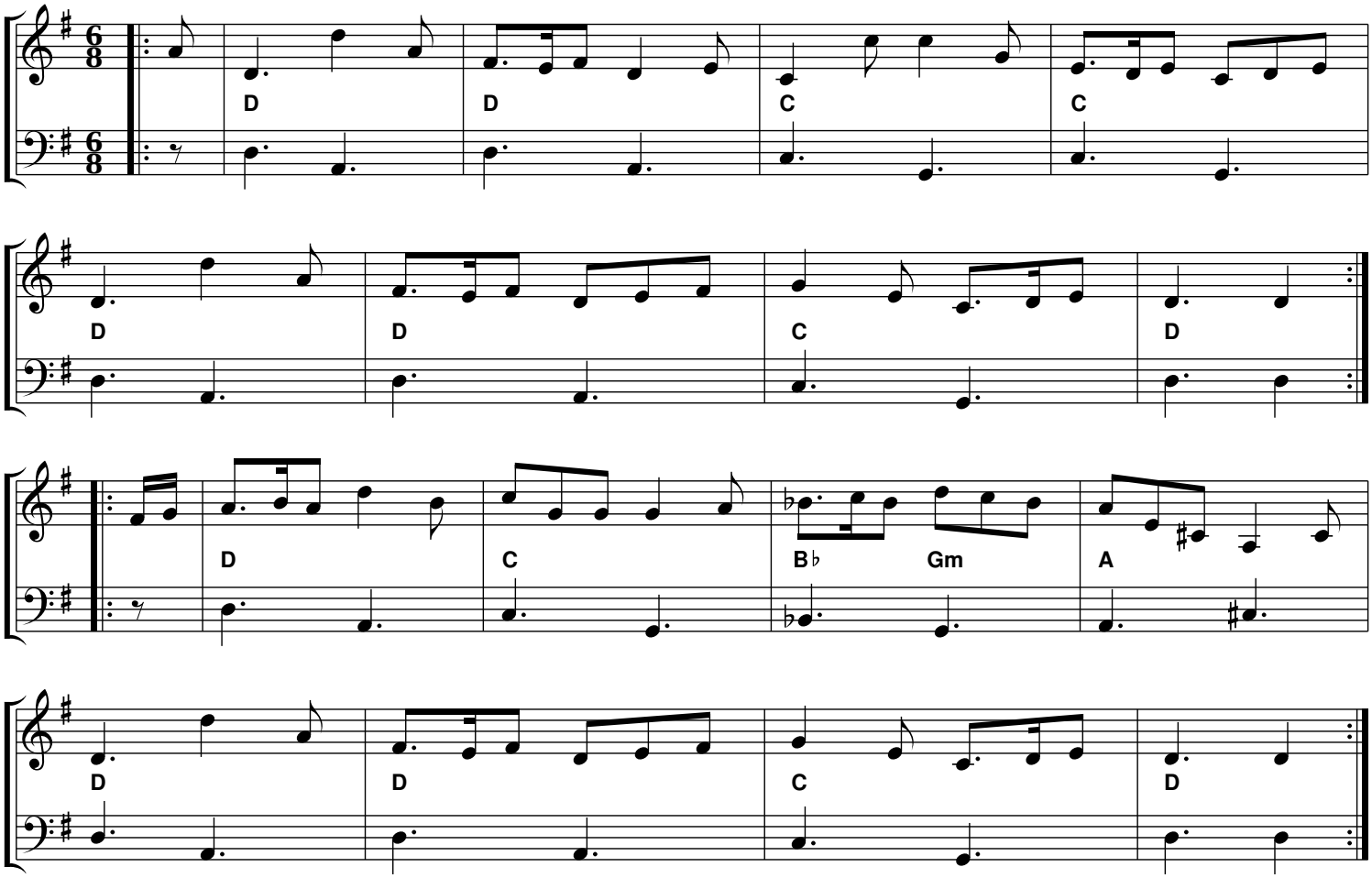
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 1998)



Written to celebrate the birth of a (then) wee lad, Carter Emerson Smith to Duncan Smith and Heather Allen.

THE CAT IN THE BAG (Jig)

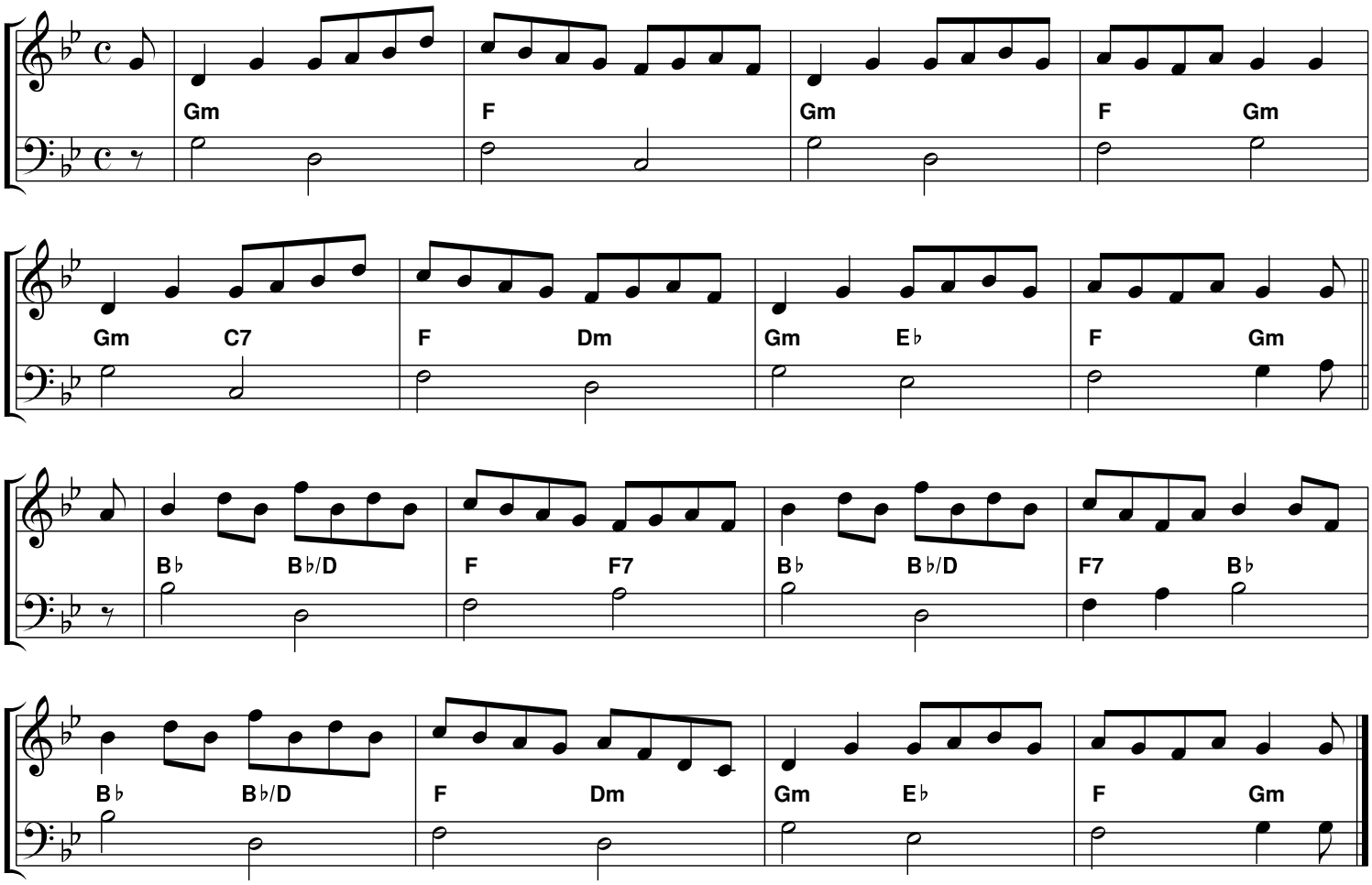
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1980)



What happens when you don’t want to let the cat OUT of the bag!

CAULD COMFORT (Reel)

Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1998)



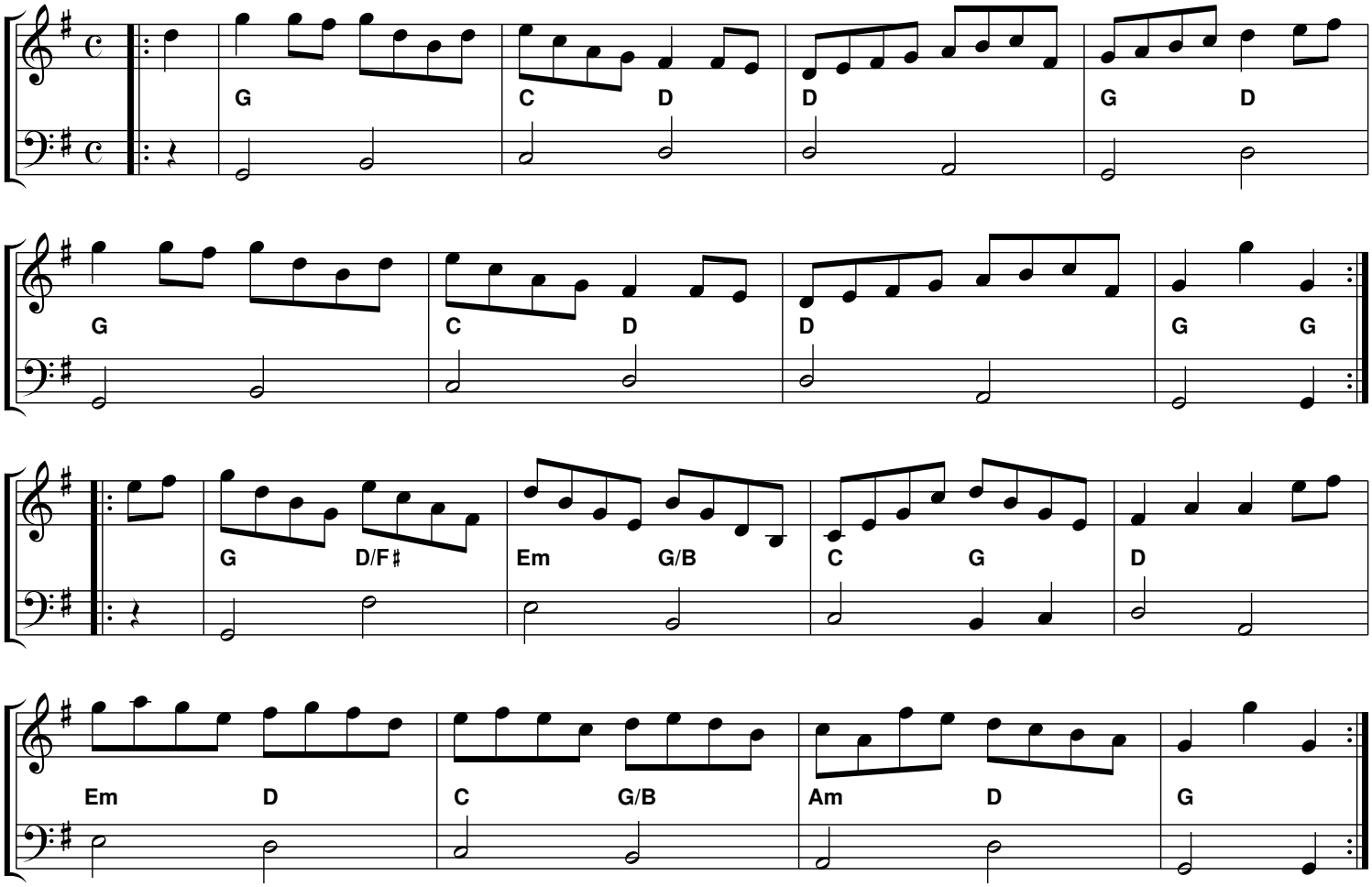
The title tune to the dance devised by American devisor and dance teacher Ron Wallace. It featured on our first album "Kardinia Capers" and the dance instructions were included in the CD booklet.

Both tune and dance began life during the 23rd Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Australian Winter School in 1998 and are dedicated to Jan Clarke and Margaret Cochran. The day before the School was due to begin in Ballarat, Victoria, and accident at the Victorian gas plant caused a severe gas shortage (which lasted 12 days). Jan and Margaret, members of the Ballarat Scottish Country Dance Group, offered their electrically heated shower for the teachers and musicians use during the week of the School.

The dance is in a 40−bar sequence. To fit the tune to the dance, it should be played A−B−A−BB.

THE CELEBRATION HORNPIPE

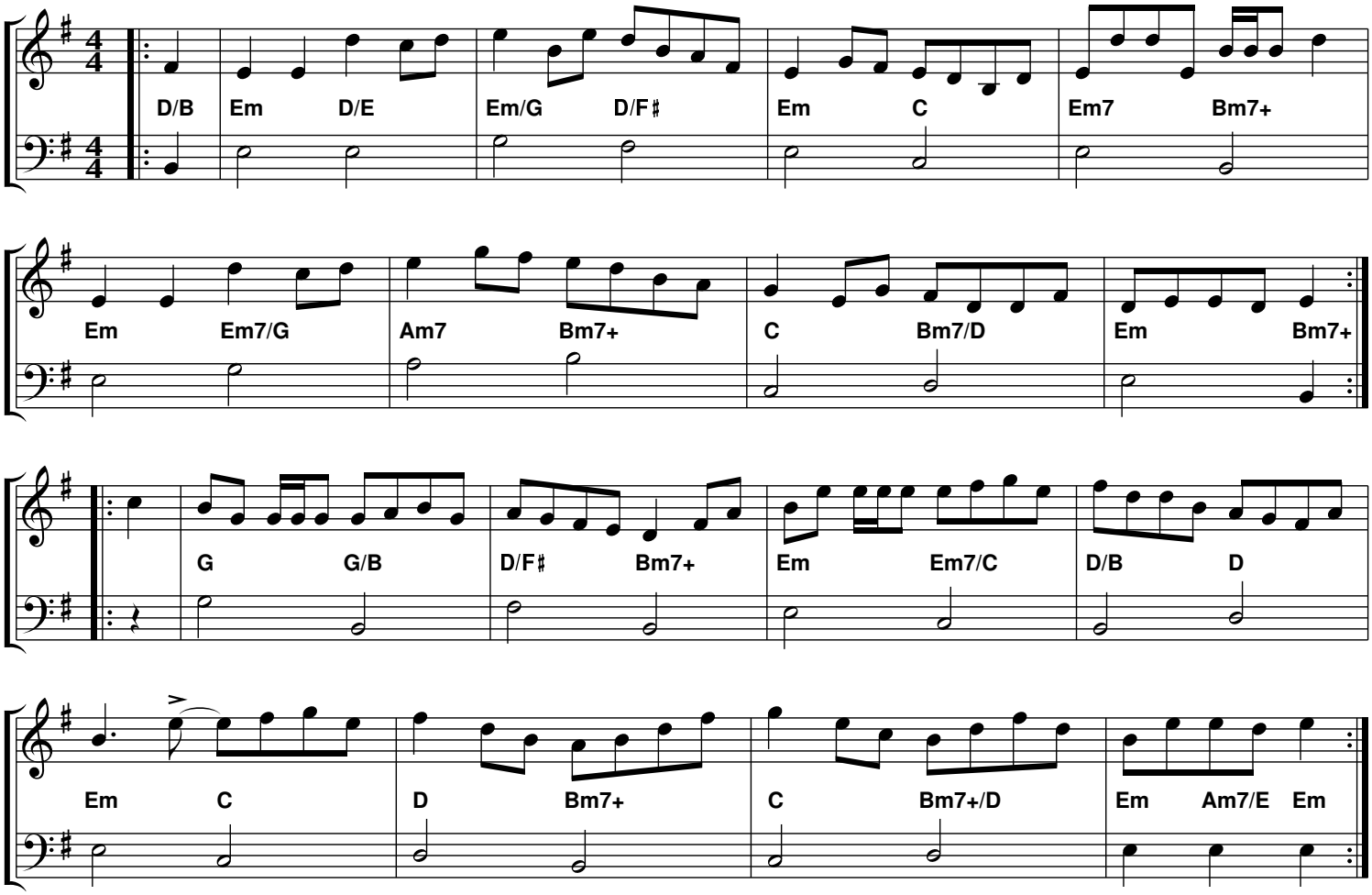
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1997)



Composed for the wedding of my brother Kenneth Hasbrouck Smith and Anne−Marie Biernacki in 1997. Both are fine Scottish Country Dancers. The tune was composed for a dance written in their honor by my father and stepmother, Alan and Lydia Smith, both long−time RSCDS teachers.

CHRIS STONE'S REEL

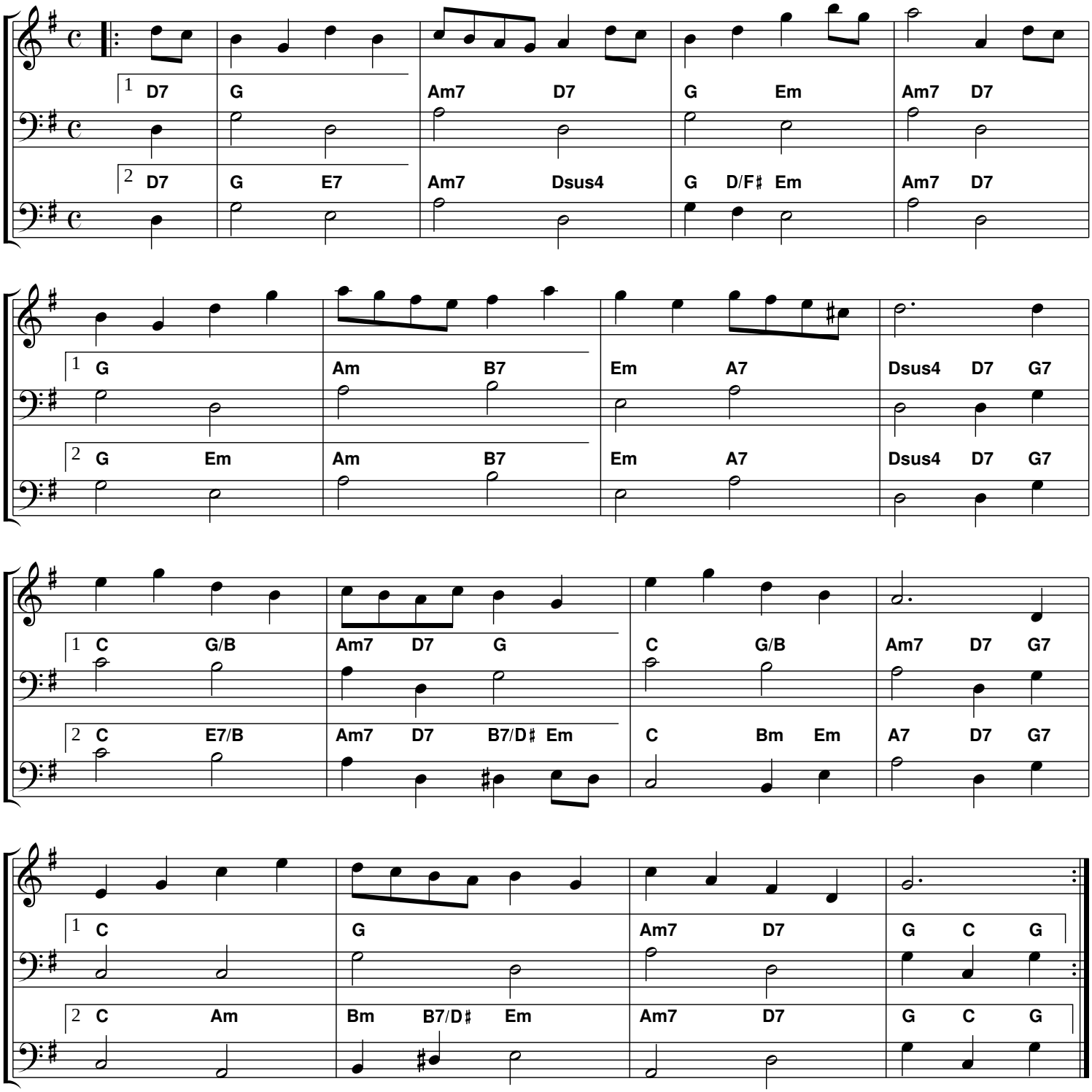
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2008)



An edgy reel for Chris Stone, one of Australia's finest young traditional fiddlers, composers and arrangers − indefatigable in his musical stamina and always experimenting with the boundaries of where the fiddling craft can be taken.

CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL (Air)

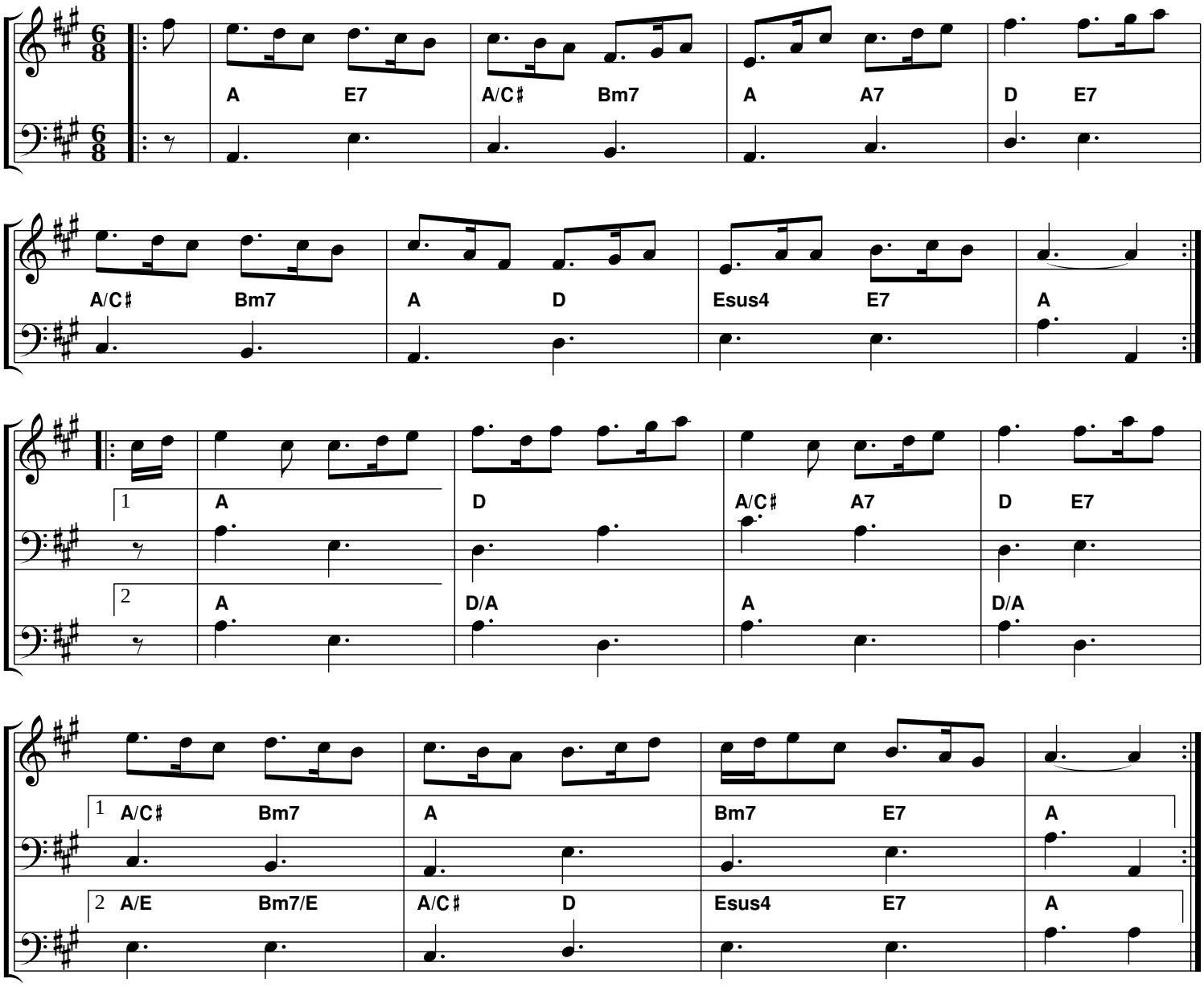
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1986)



One of my first attempts at composition. Composed while on holiday in New Zealand in 1985/6. It saddened me to learn that the Cathedral sustained extensive damage during the earthquake of February 2011.

COLIN MacLEOD OF MELBOURNE (Jig)

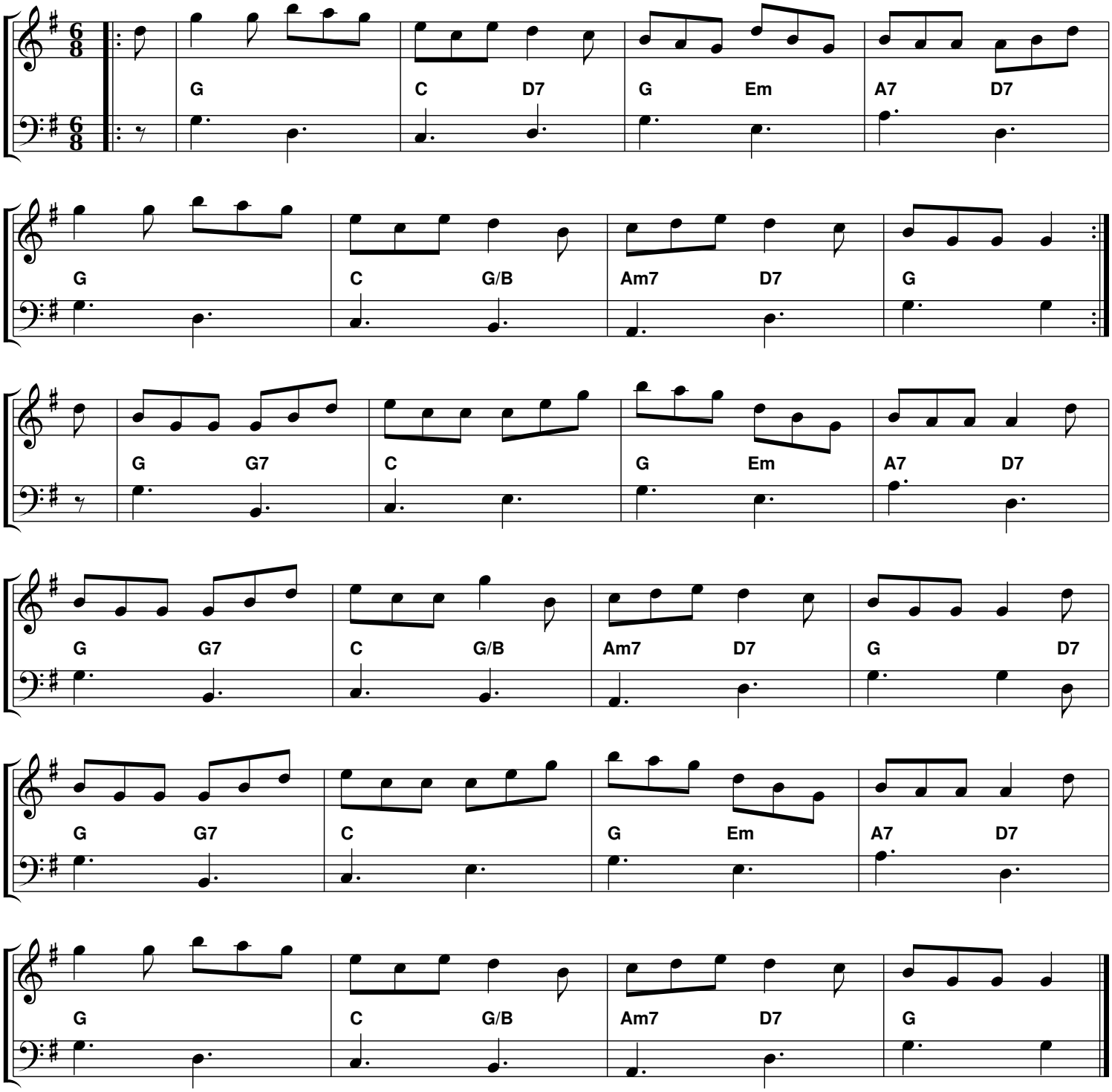
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2001)



One of the most inspiring fiddlers to have graced Australia with his presence, Colin MacLeod, a proud Scot, now also a dinkum Aussie, has been a great mate to me as well. This tune was written to encourage him to see Melbourne as one of his homes ... it worked!

DAVID SOUTH'S COMPLIMENTS TO THE MELBOURNE SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB (Jig)

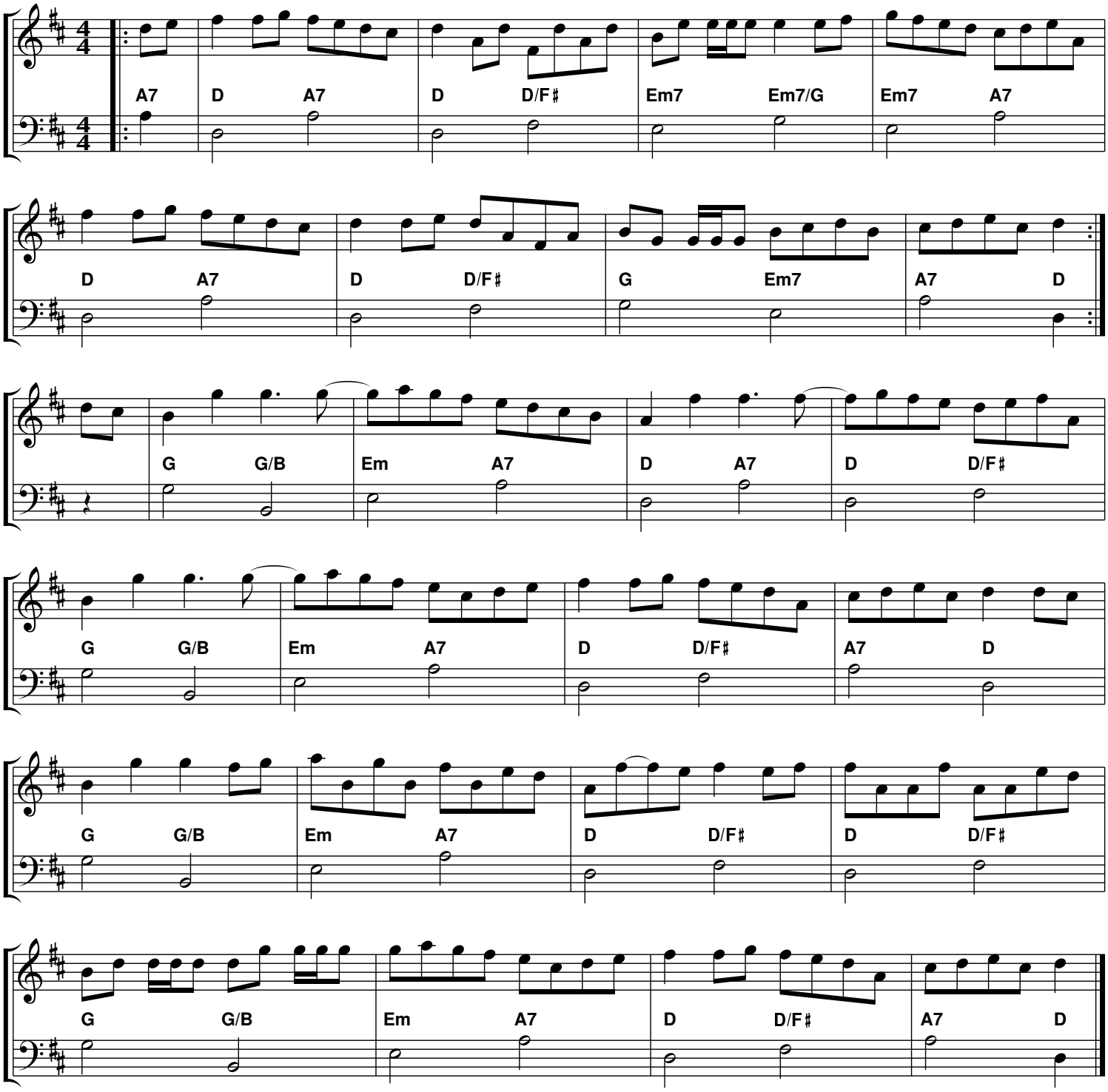
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2003)



Written for the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club and recorded on their CD "Reel Cool", on which I was a guest musician. The club has been in existence since 1995 and I have been involved in many performances with the club as a guest. I've also played with two of the driving forces of the club, husband & wife team Neil Adam & Judy Turner on many other occasions. Another driving force of the club is Matthew Robertson.

DUNCAN SMITH'S REEL

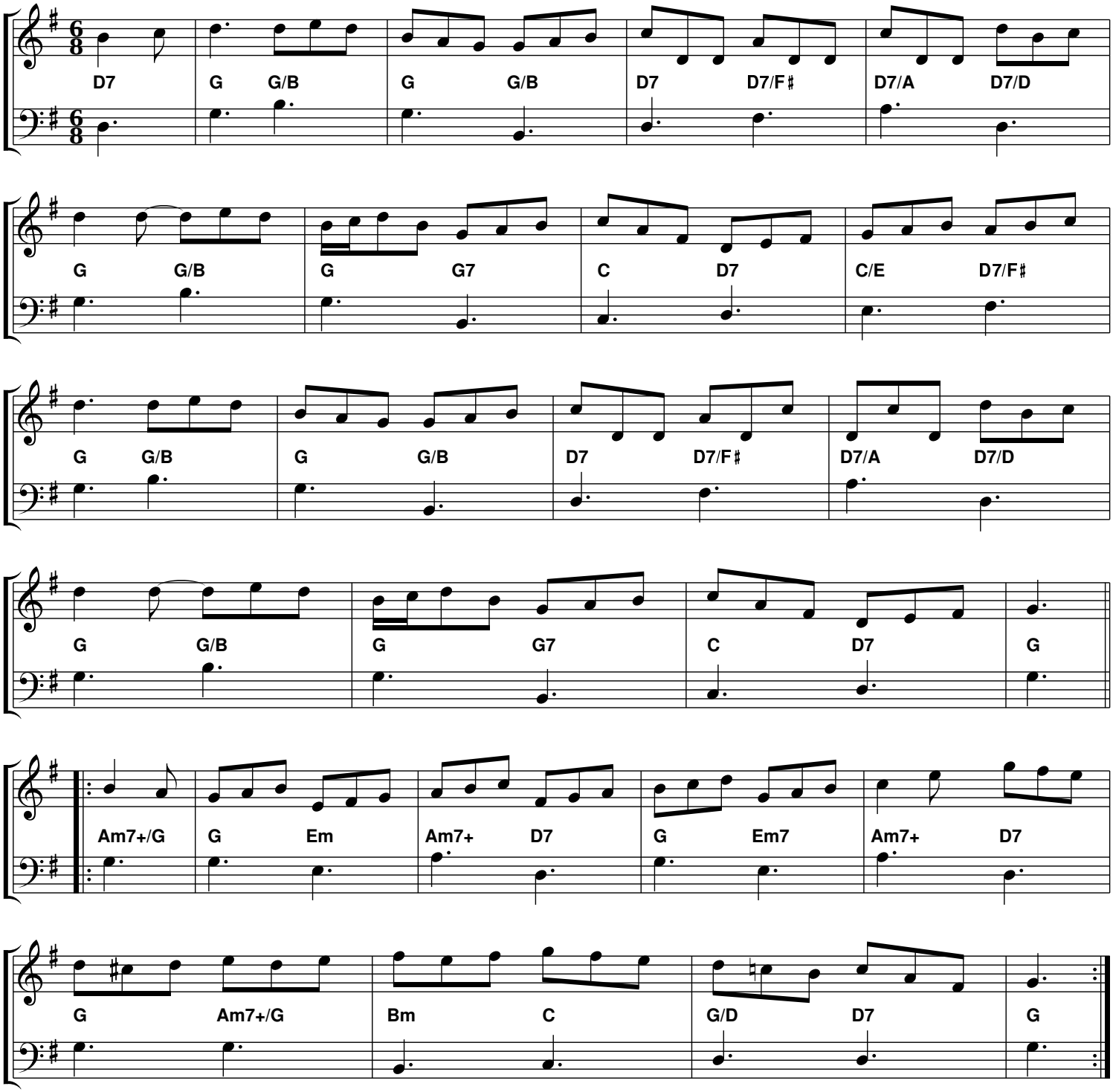
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2000)



A reel for Duncan Smith of Boston, USA and latterly the picturesque hills east of Melbourne, Australia. Duncan has for years given dance audiences here the finest piano accompaniment in numerous instrumental combinations and has helped voice to some of my own musical ideas, for which I am ever grateful.

ELAINE ARTHUR'S JIG

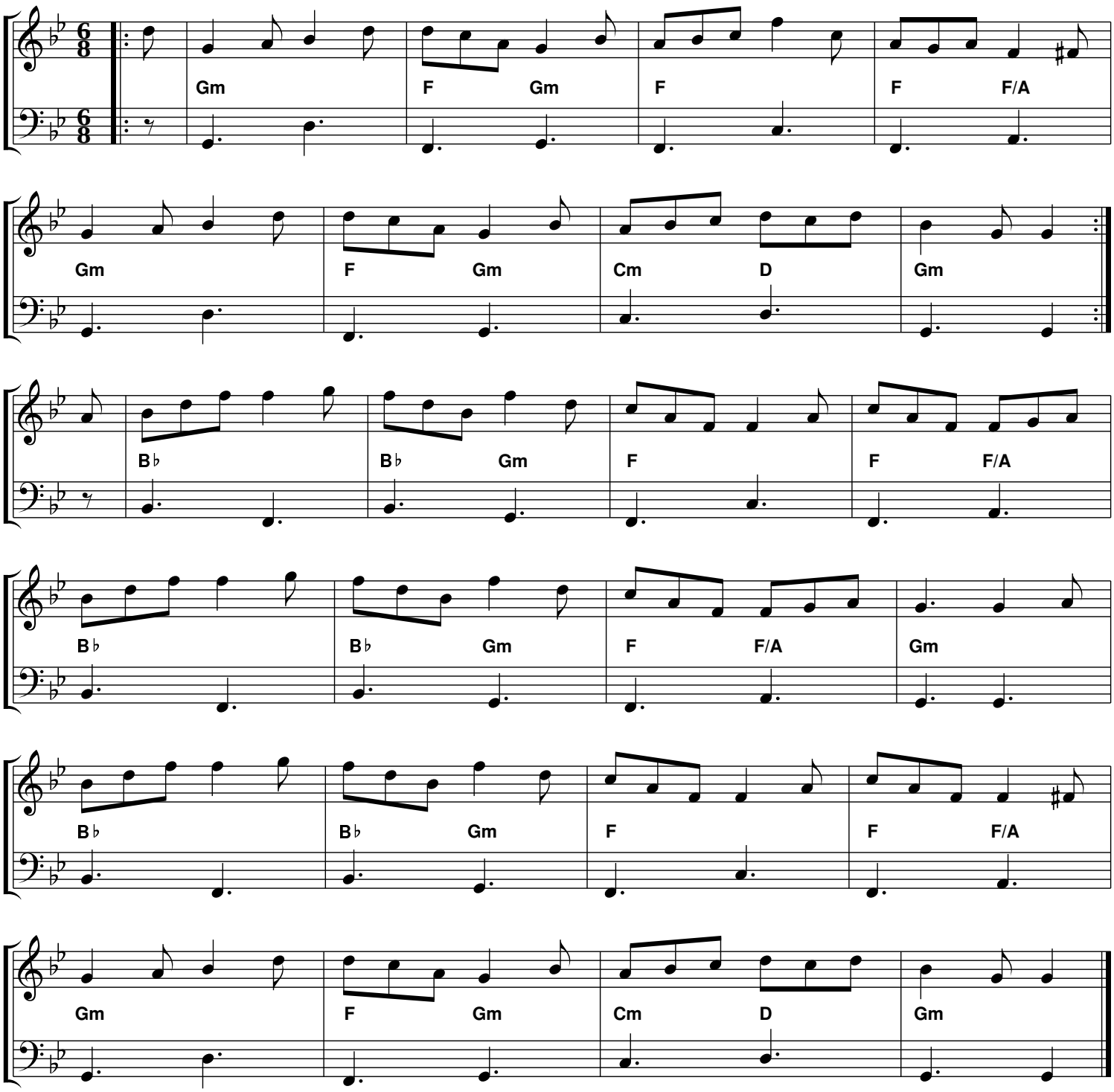
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 1996)



A jig for Elaine Arthur − a favourite Scottish dance teacher from my time in Canberra. This tune has an A−part phrase to suit a dance with a "travel and set" figure and a B−part phrase for a "lead down and up with partner" movement.

FOWLER'S MILL (Jig)

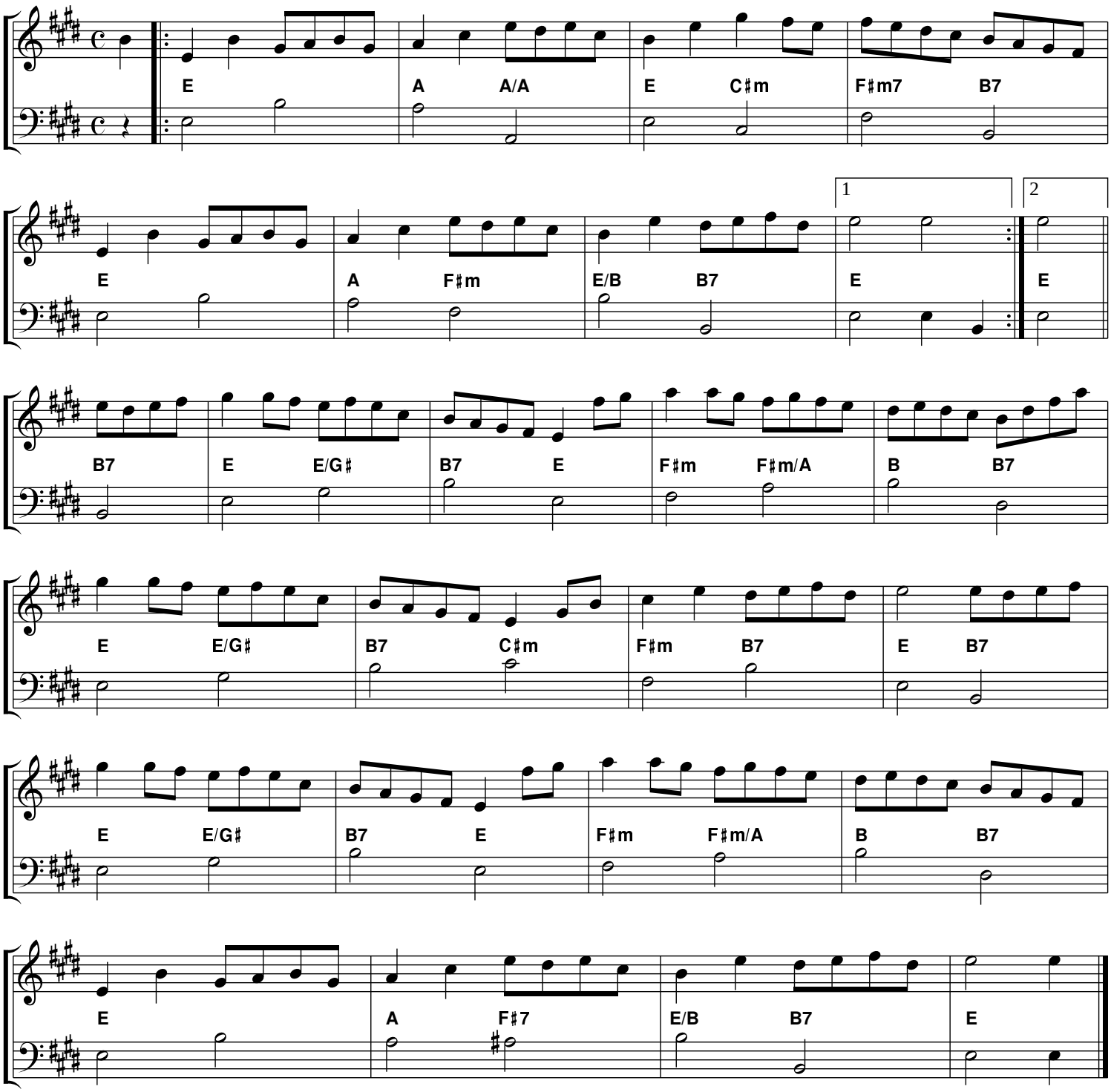
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1980)



Named after Fowler's Mill Road in New Hampshire, the location of a beloved family home.

FRANKLYN HALL (Reel)

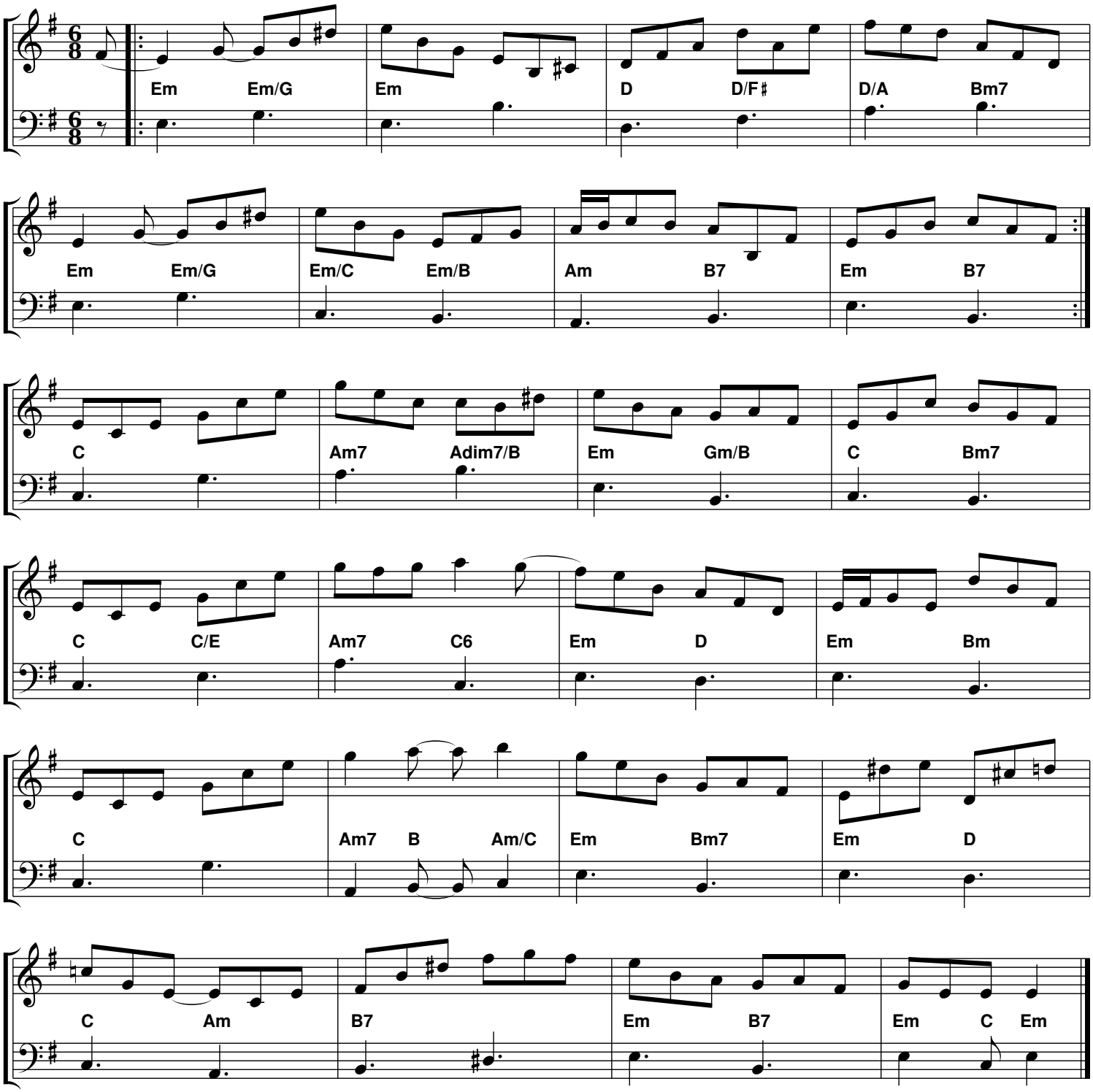
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1999)



Composed in New Zealand while I was a staff musician at the 1998/9 Summer School run by the New Zealand Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Franklyn Hall was the name of the residential building we used in the University where the School was held.

GROOVE JIG

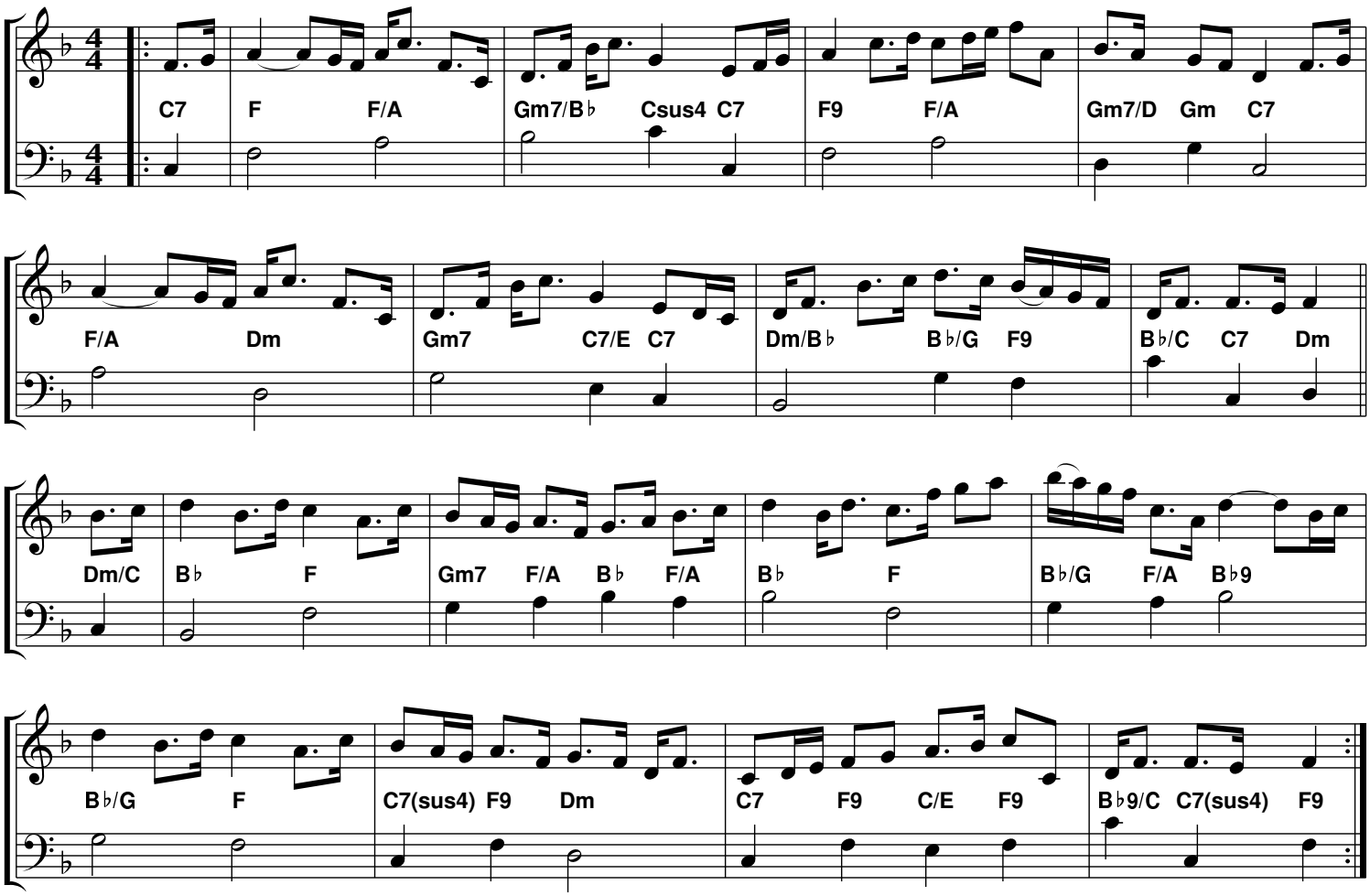
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2009)



6/8 is a wonderful time signature for a slinky tune, whether played steadily for a dance or, when not danced, dropped down−tempo a notch or two for that groooovy feel.

GWEN BEATON'S STRATHSPEY

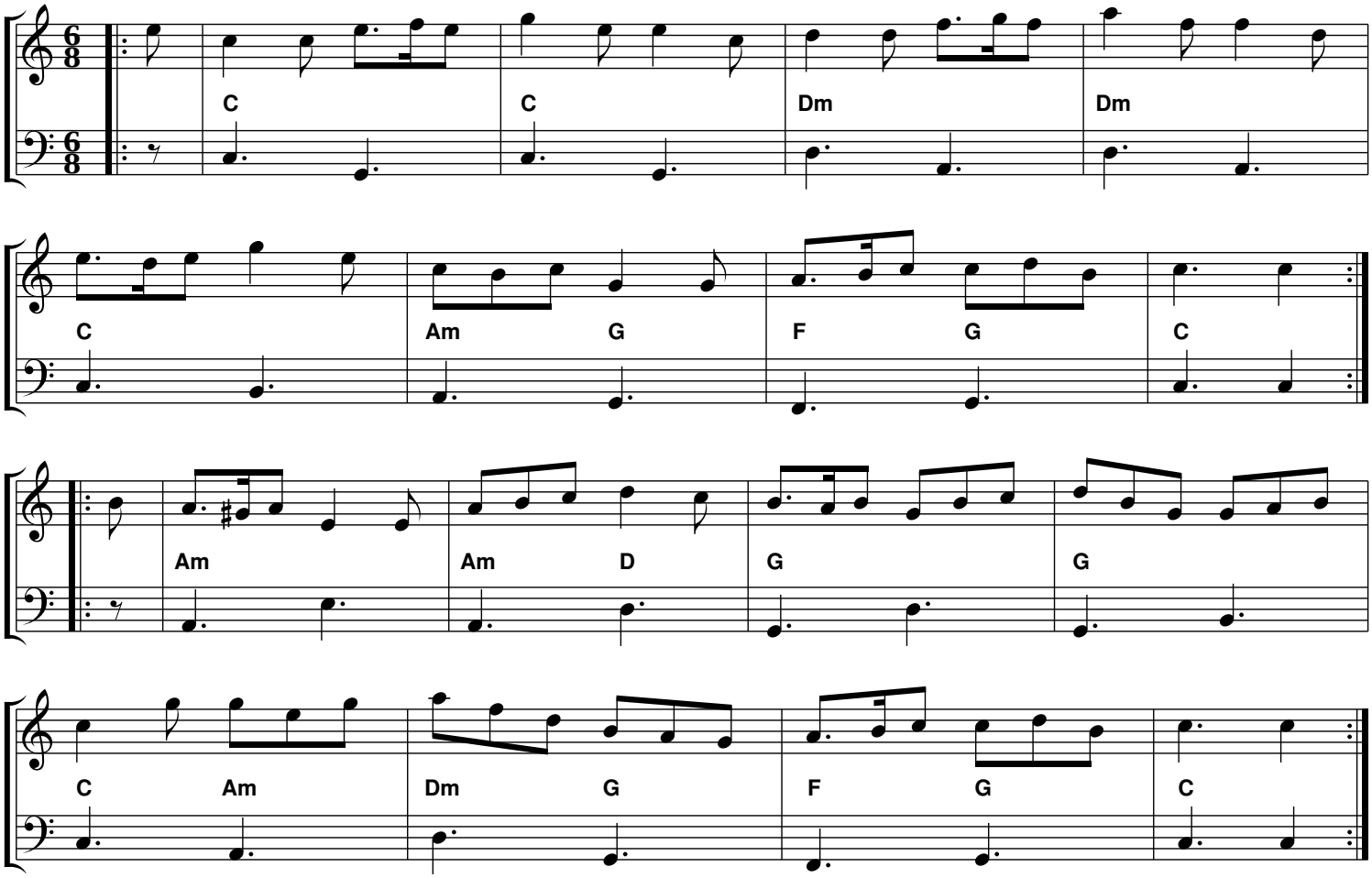
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2008)



For Gwen Beaton, stalwart of the Box Hill Scottish Society, written for her 80th birthday, and to go with an original Scottish Country Dance of the same name devised by my fellow dance teacher, June Inwood.

THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP (Jig)

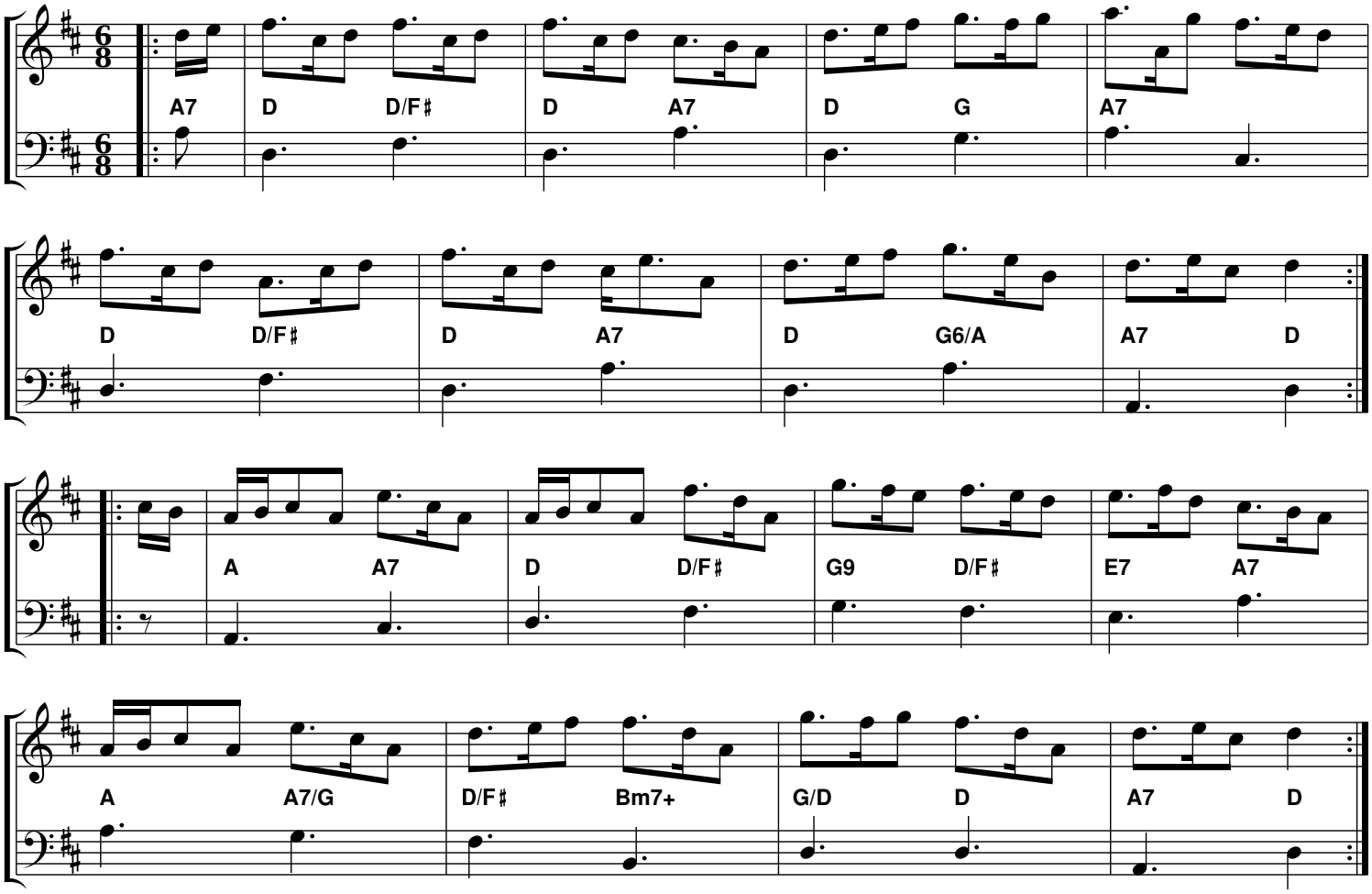
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1980)



Sometimes extending "The Hand Of Friendship" is the best was to bridge a divide.

HUMFFRAY STREET SOUTH (Jig)

Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2002)

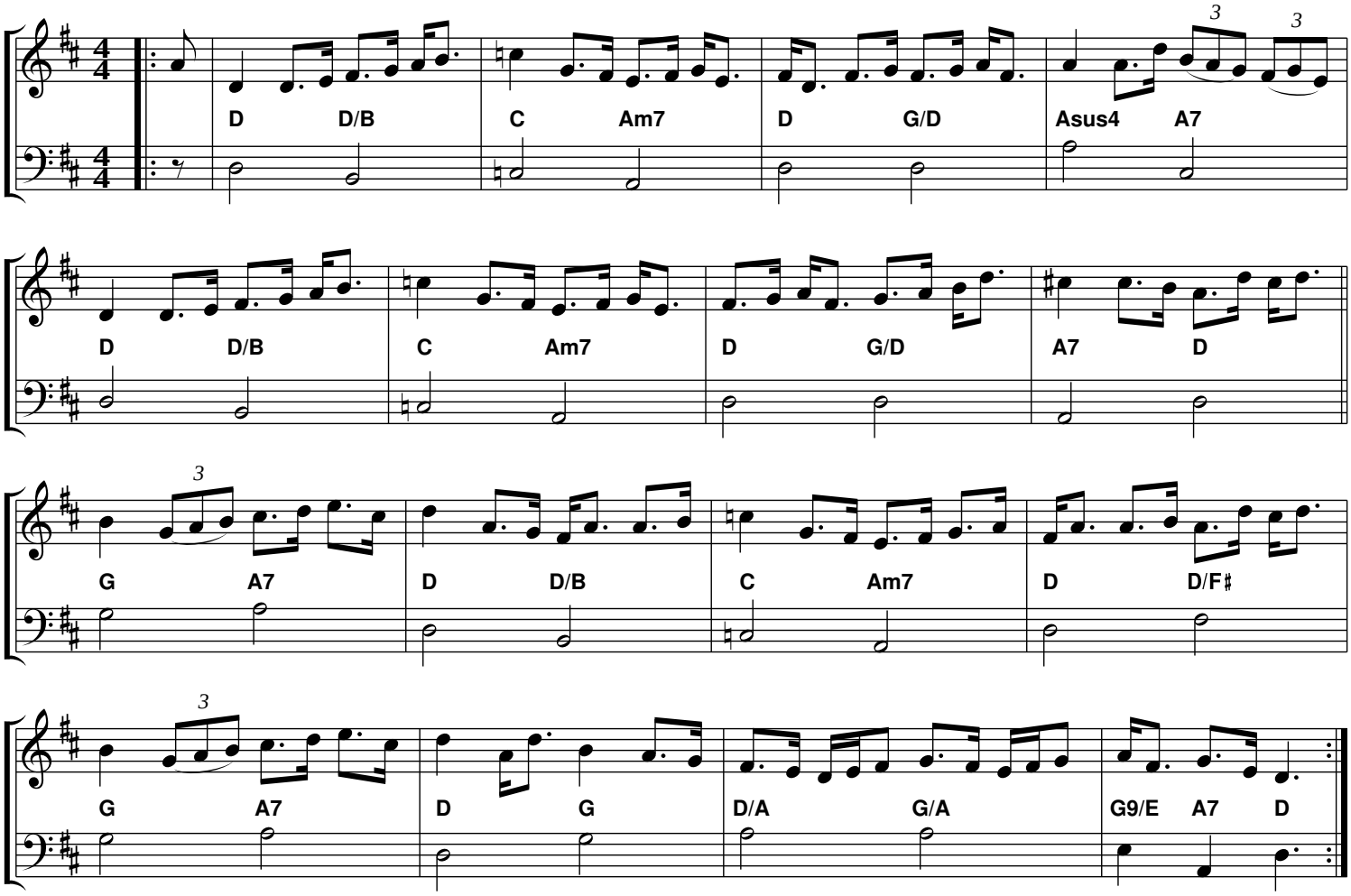


For my friends, Heather MacLeod and Ewan Barker, fine citizens of the very fine Victorian gold rush city of Ballarat, Australia, and their pleasant corner in an old part of it.

IAN DUNLOP

OF HOSCOTE, ROXBURGHSHIRE AND MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (Strathspey)

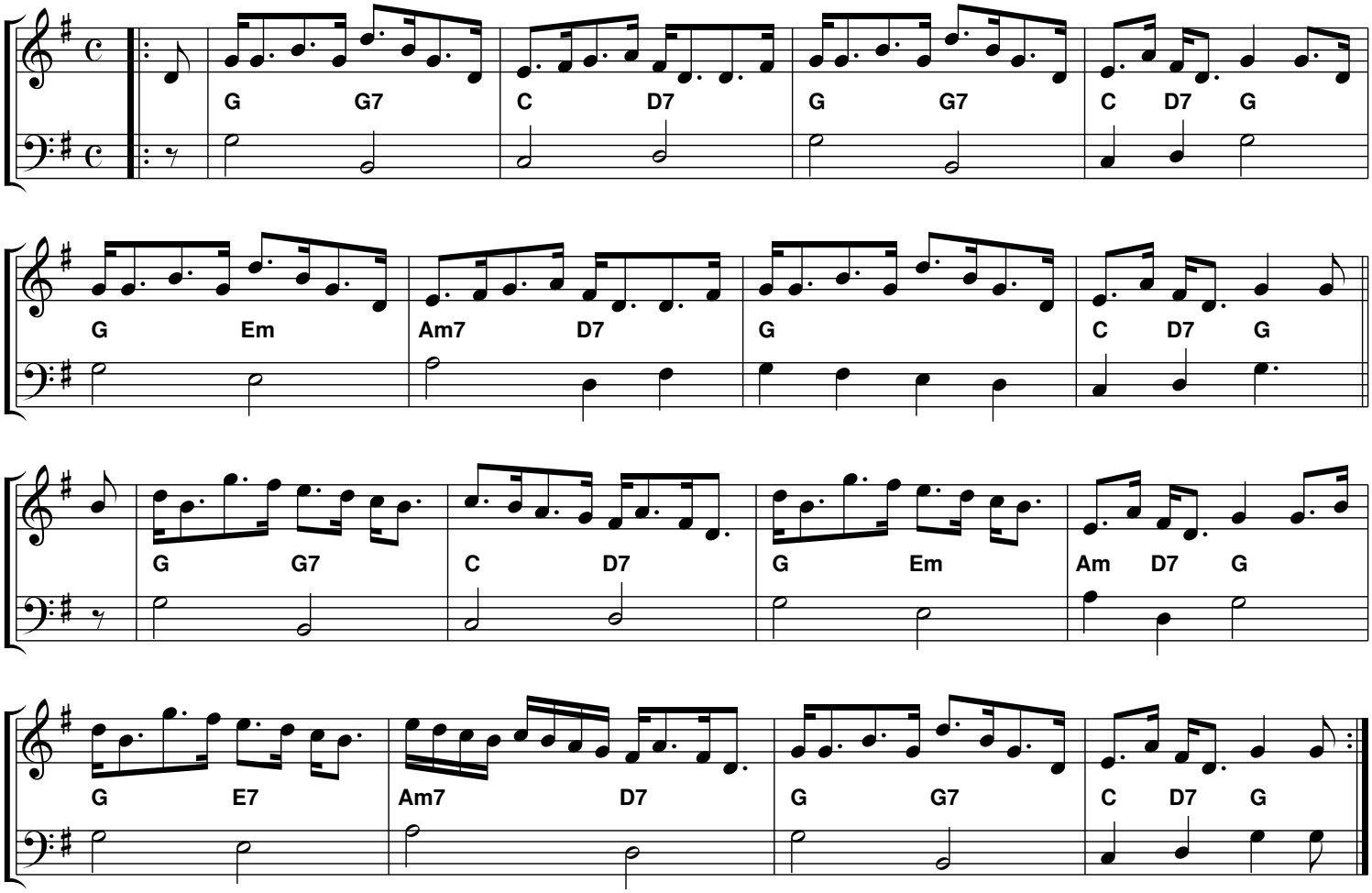
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2011)



A Strathspey to speed on his journey the late Ian Dunlop, who contributed much over many years as dancer and committee member in the Box Hill Scottish Society dance group.

JAN WILSON'S STRATHSPEY

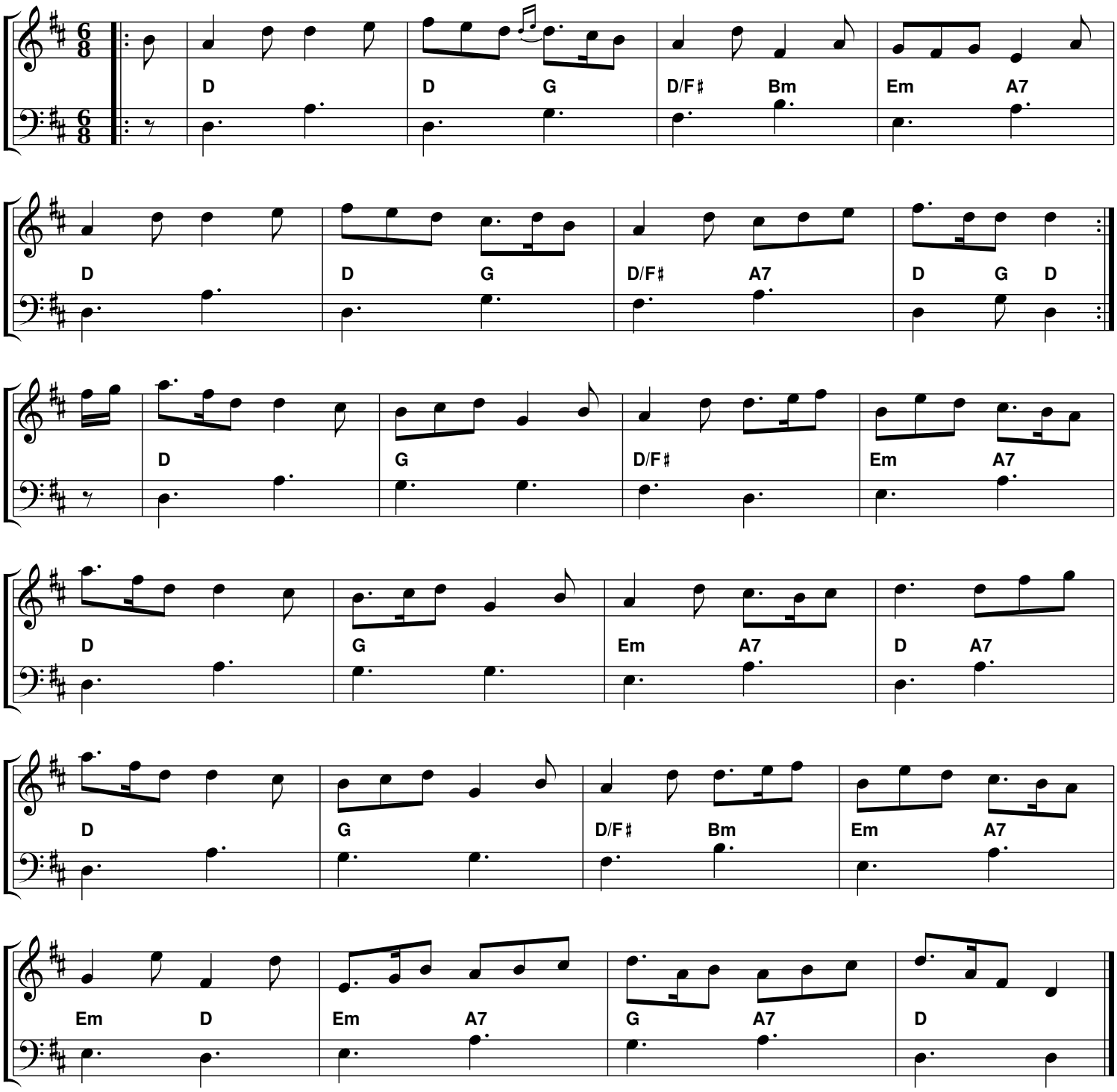
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1999)



The lead tune for the dance of the same name devised by John Drewry, published in his "The Australian Book" in 1995, recorded on our first album "Kardinia Capers" and dedicated to Sydney dance teacher Jan Wilson. It was Jan's idea for my band to make the CD and her dance group (now no longer in existence) funded the project. I have a lot to thank Jan for.

JOHN DREWRY'S VISIT TO CANBERRA (Jig)

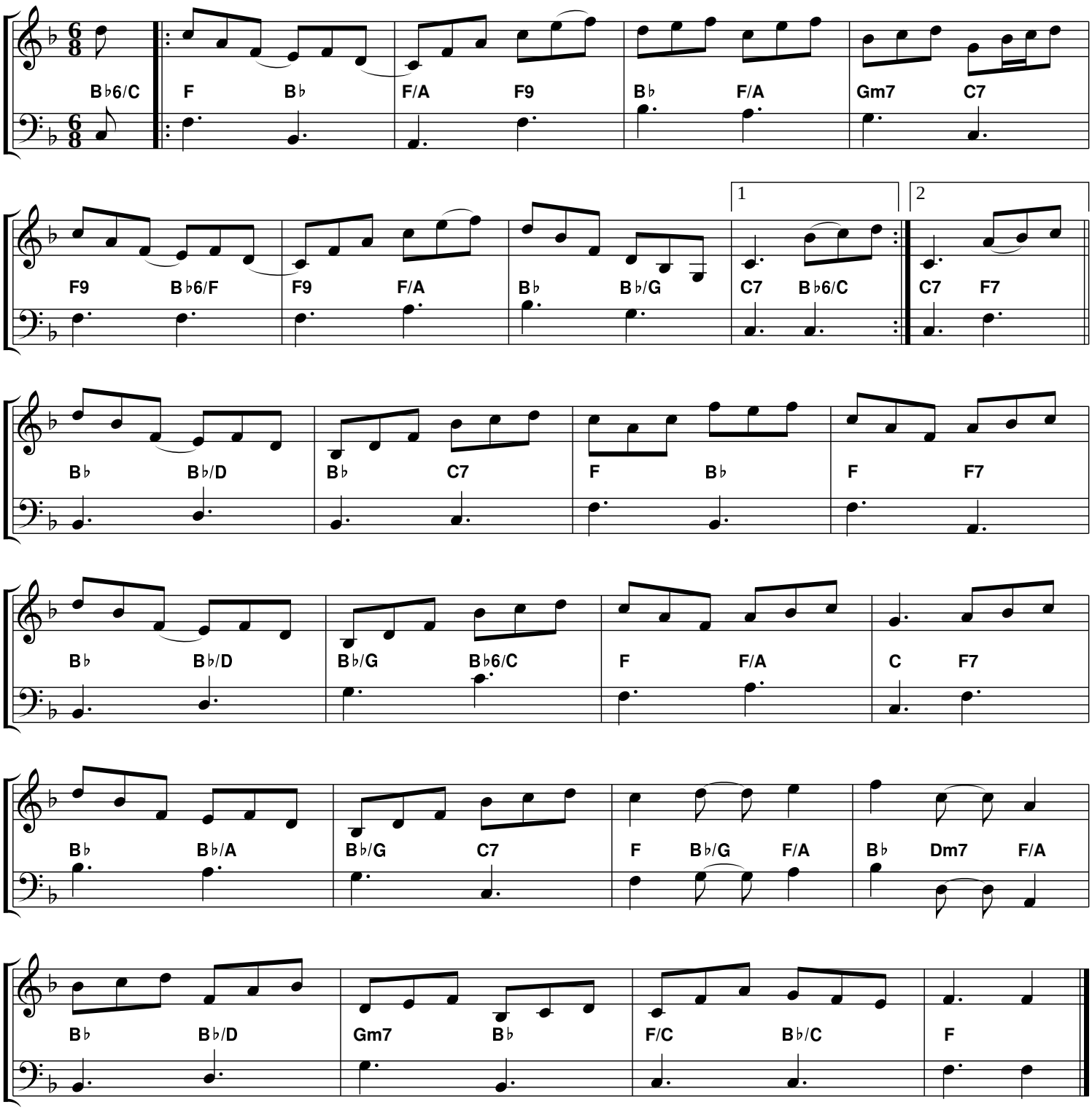
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 1995)



A dance jig written for the 1995 visit to Australia by John Drewry of Aberdeen, famed and prolific deviser of terrific Scottish Country Dances that "flow".

JUDY'S JIG

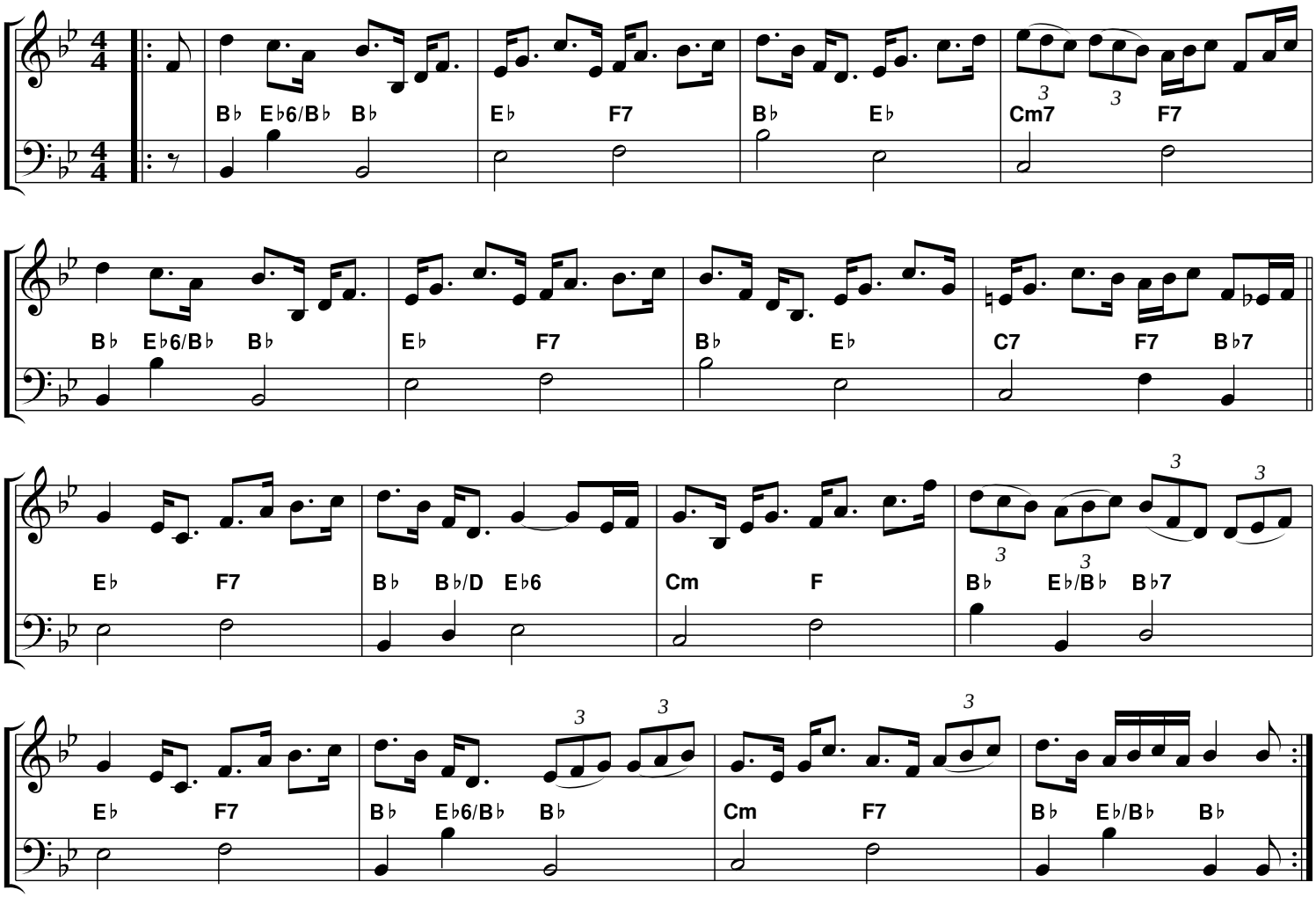
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2008)



A swingin' jig for my fiddle friend, Judy Turner, founder of the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club, a wonderful community music group that we've had a lot of fun building over the years as a platform for vibrant group performances of Scottish fiddle music.

JUNE INWOOD'S STRATHSPEY

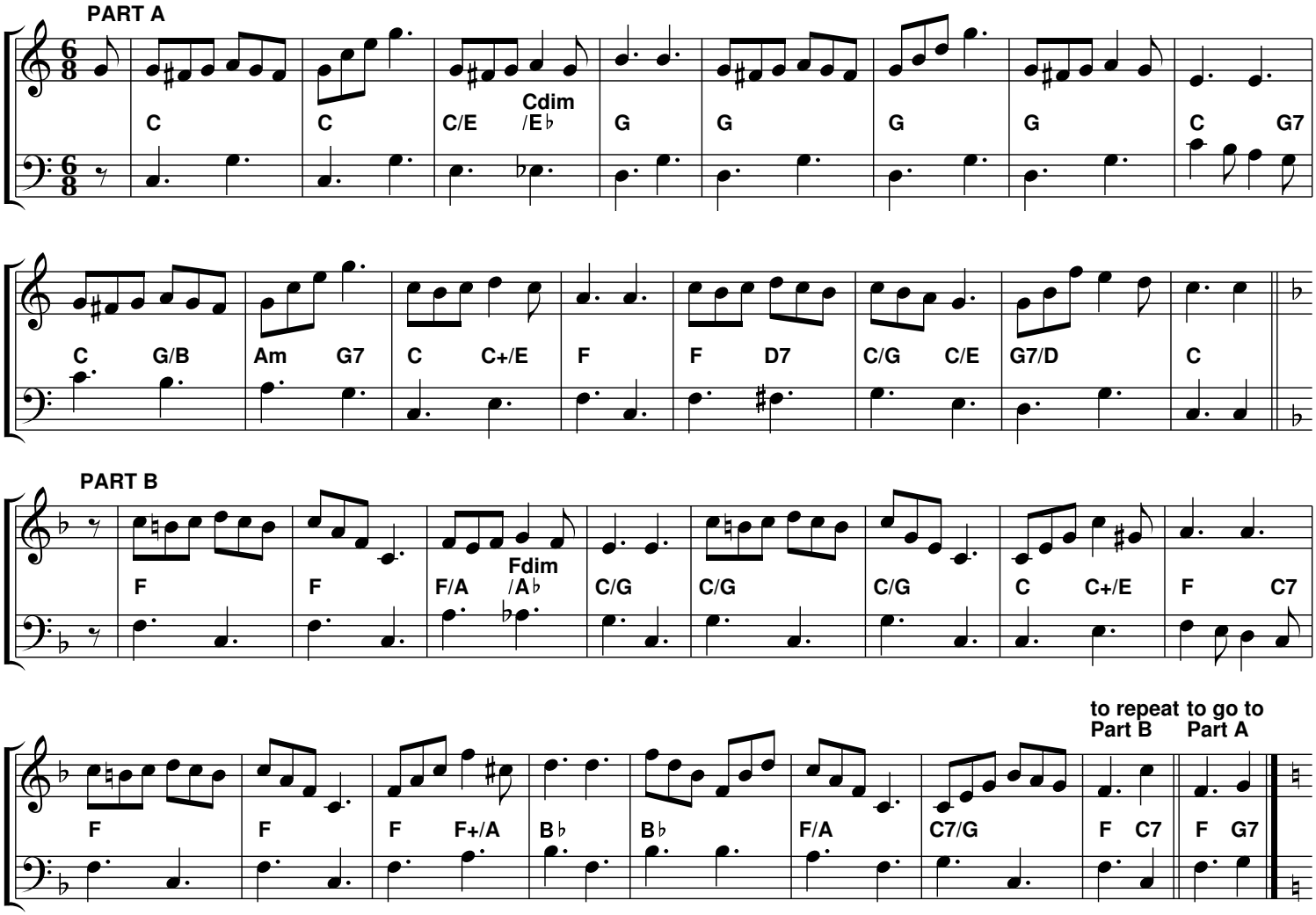
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2008)



For June Inwood, a dance teacher at the Box Hill Scottish Society in Melbourne, Australia − a woman of wry, dry humour and with whom an elegant and strong Strathspey is a pleasure to dance.

KAREN & IAN (Jig or Two-Step)

Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1997)



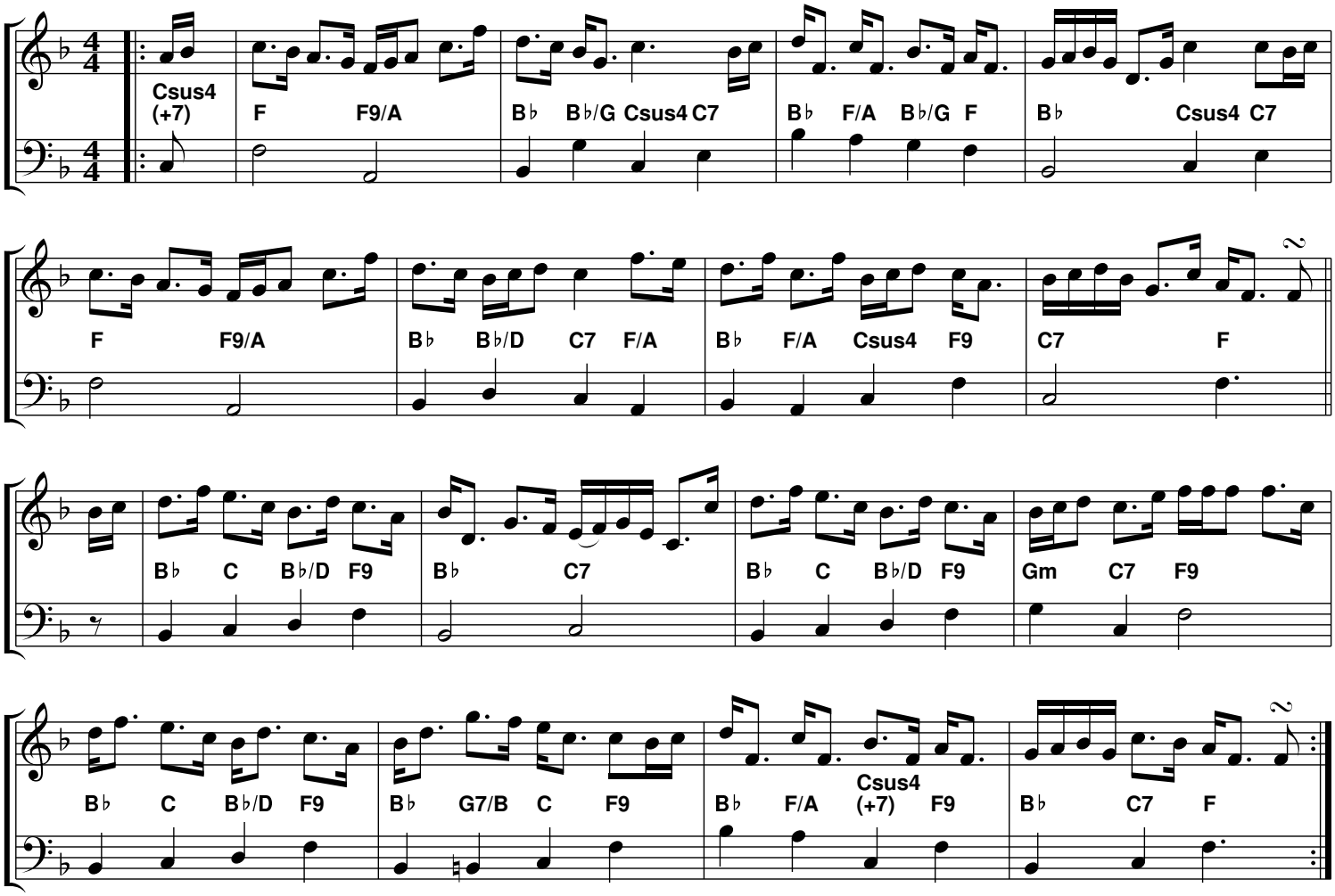
Composed for the dance "Karen & Ian's Wedding", which was included in the book "2001: A Dance Odyssey", published by the Queensland Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Unfortunately, the tune wasn't included with the dance in the publication.

The dance was devised by Anne & Joanne Archdeacon who are involved with the Cairns Scottish Country Dance Club and dedicated to a couple in their group who married in 1997.

The entire length of the dance is 96 bars. To fit the tune to the dance, it should be played A−A−B−B−A−A. Alternatively, the tune could be used as a two−step.

LES & AILEEN CUMMING'S STRATHSPEY

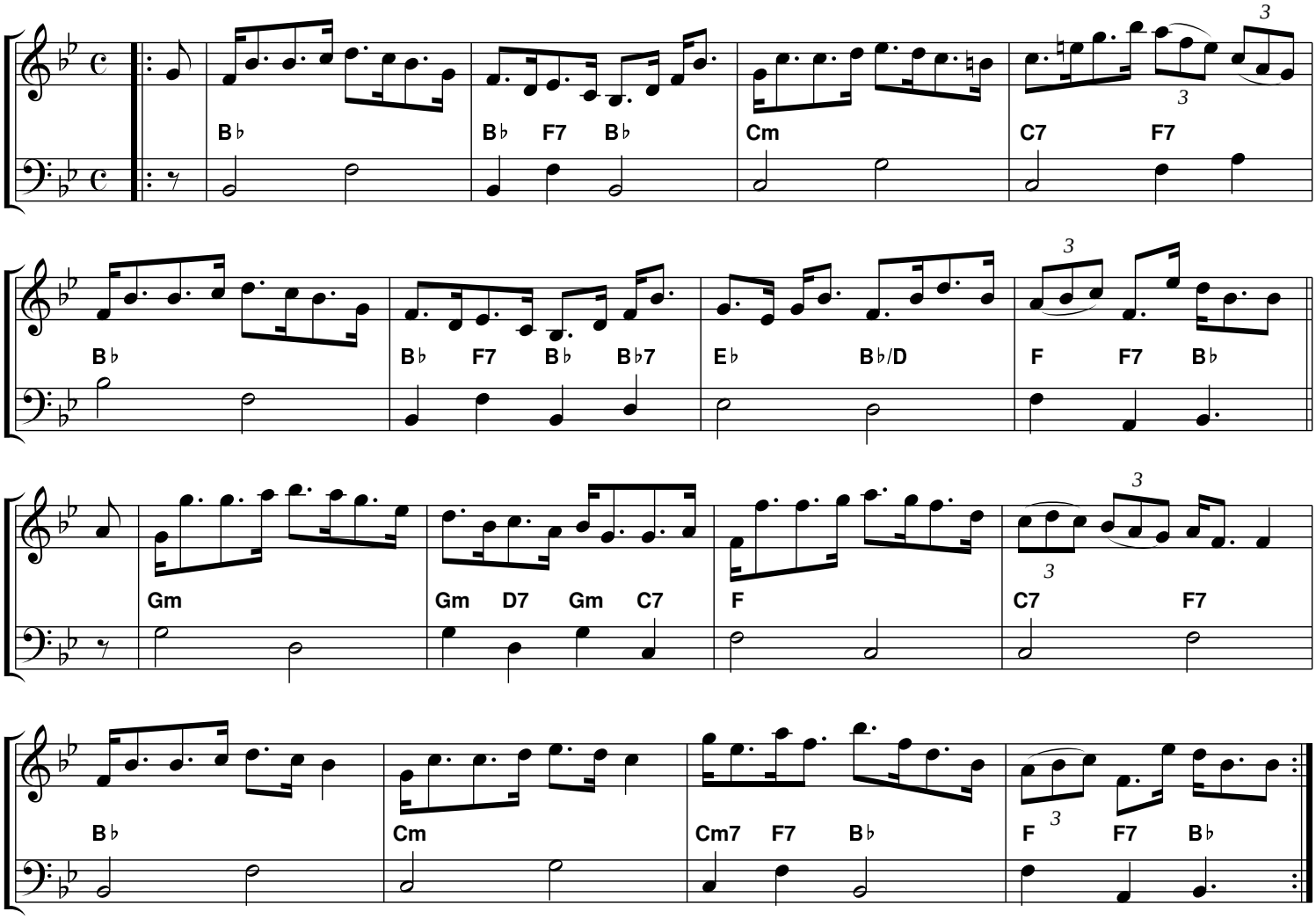
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2009)



For Les & Aileen Cumming of Elgin in Scotland's north and in later life Canberra, Australia. Les knew and danced to the great modern Scottish post−war fiddlers and their bands. A tutor during my dance teacher training in the 1990s, Les was then, as now, a man of good form, style and grace, humble in his achievements and an honour to know.

LIS THOMAS'S 80th BIRTHDAY (Strathspey)

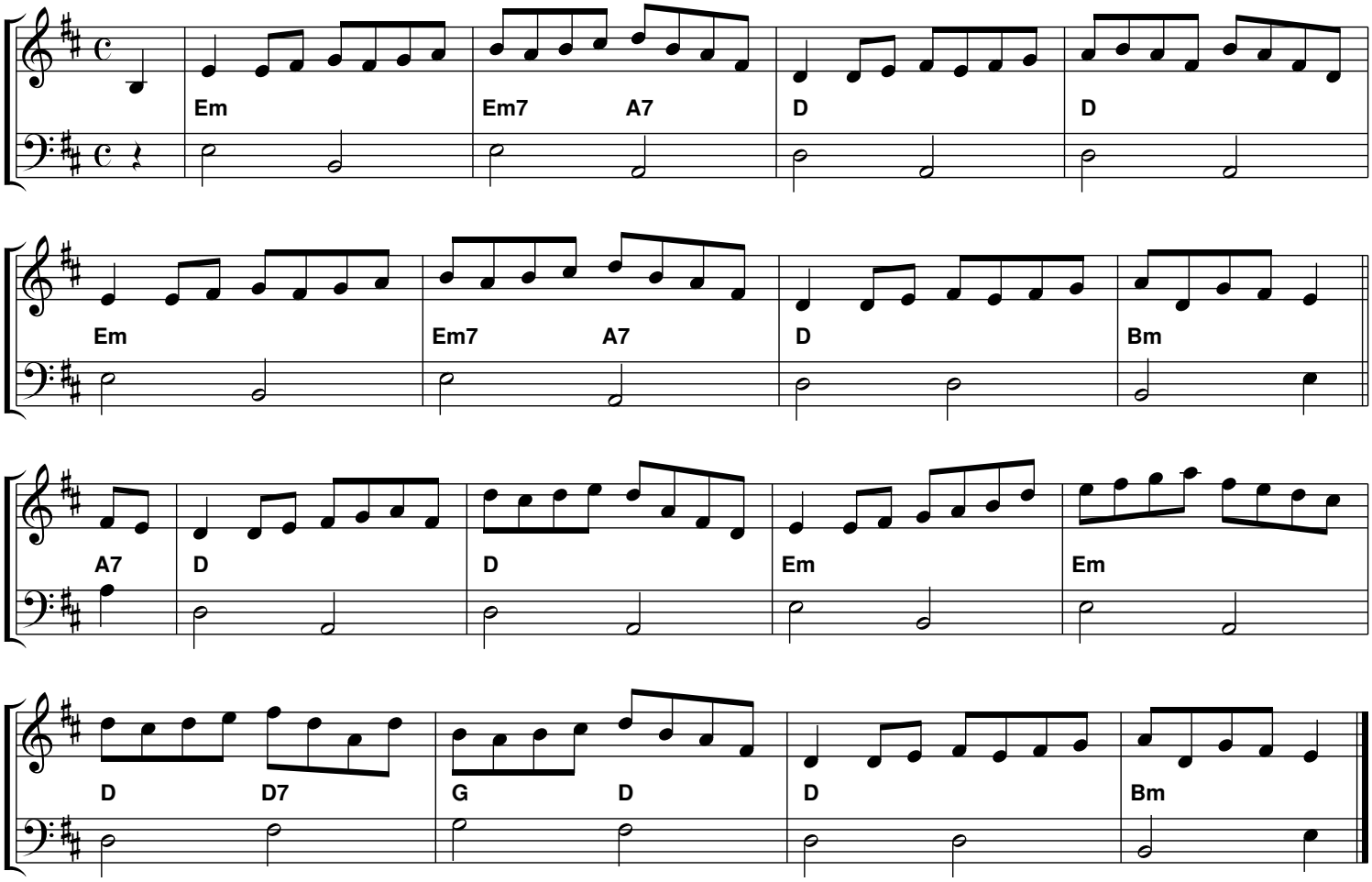
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2011)



Lis Thomas lives in Castlemaine in Victoria, Australia and recently retired from teaching a Scottish Country Dance group that meets in Woodend − a town near to where she lives. When she celebrated her 80th birthday at the start of 2011, Lis was presented with a dance that was especially devised to mark the occasion by one of her dancers Jeanne McFarlane. This is the tune that goes with the dance.

LIS THOMAS'S BIRTHDAY (Reel)

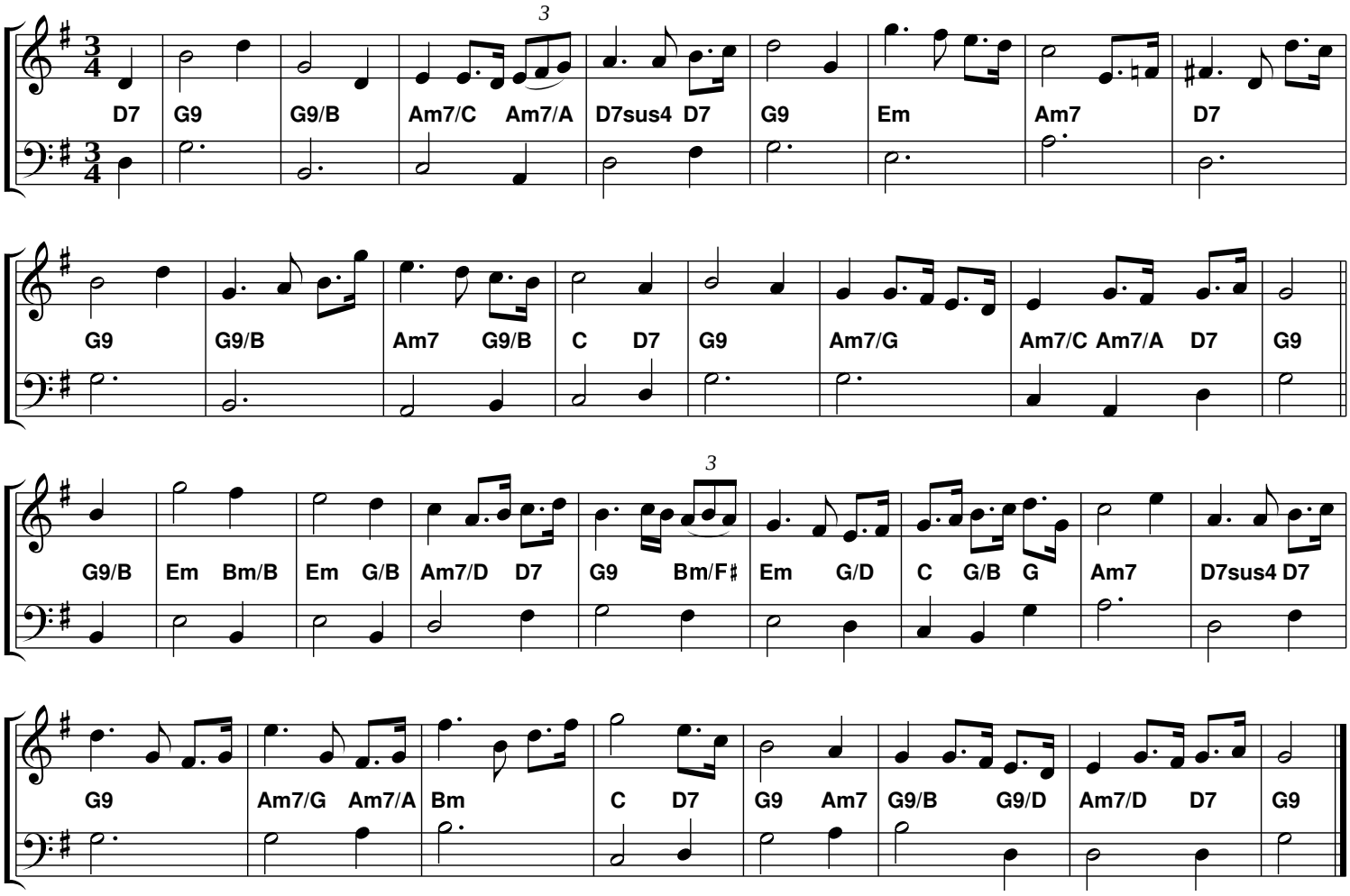
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2000)



The same Lis Thomas (see "Lis Thomas's 80th Birthday") had a dance devised to mark her 70th birthday and it was presented to her by the dance's devisor Beryl Zakharov. The dance is called "Celtic Dreaming" and this is the lead tune for it. The dance was recorded on the album "The Southern Touch" and the instructions are included in the CD booklet. The sequence is 40 bars and to make the tune fit the sequence, it should be played A−B−A−BB.

MADONNA'S WALTZ

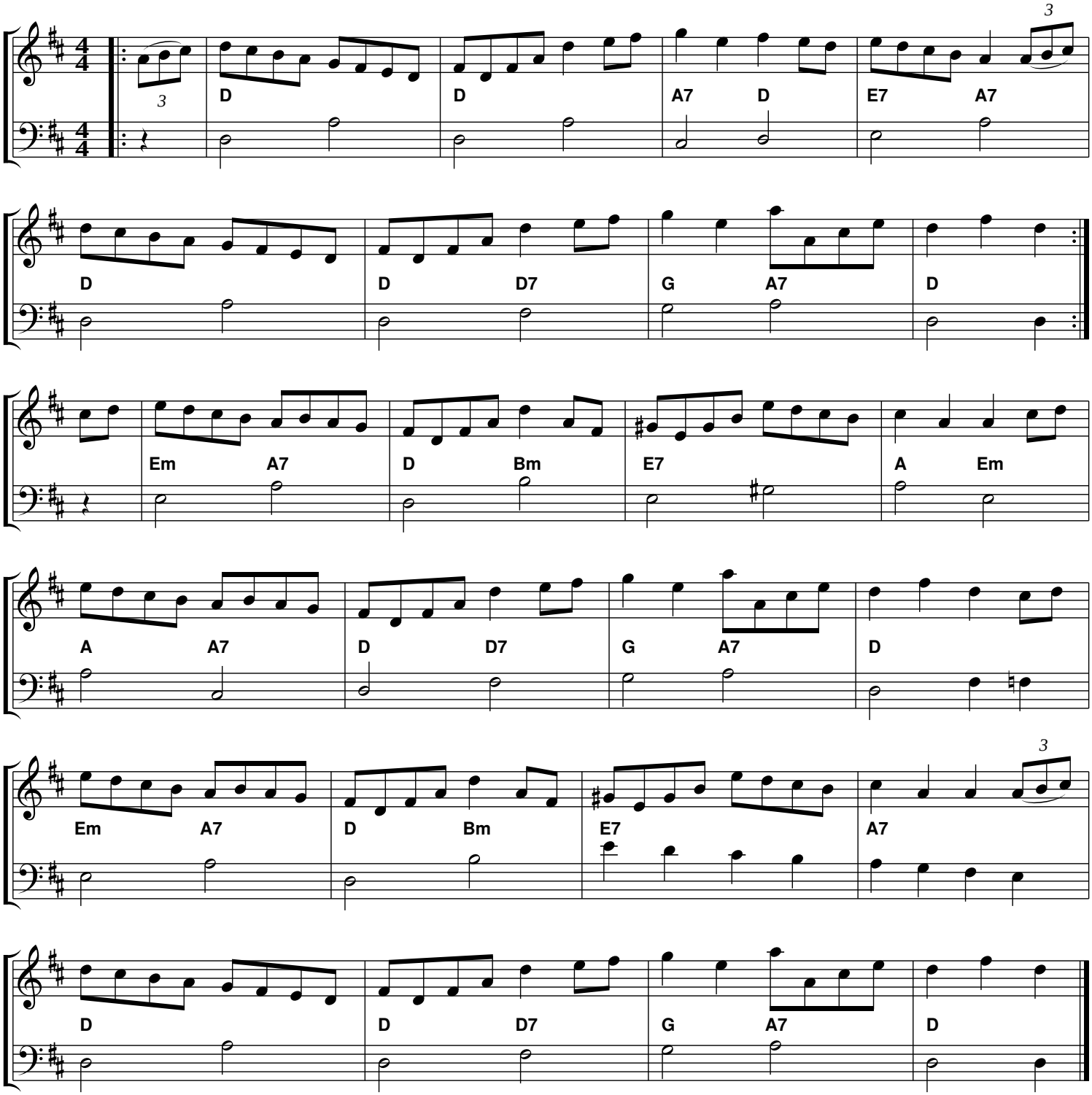
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 1993)



For my darling wife, Madonna Grehan, whom I met at a dance many years ago ... some enchanted evening ... across a crowded room.

MATTHEW ROBERTSON'S HORNPIPE

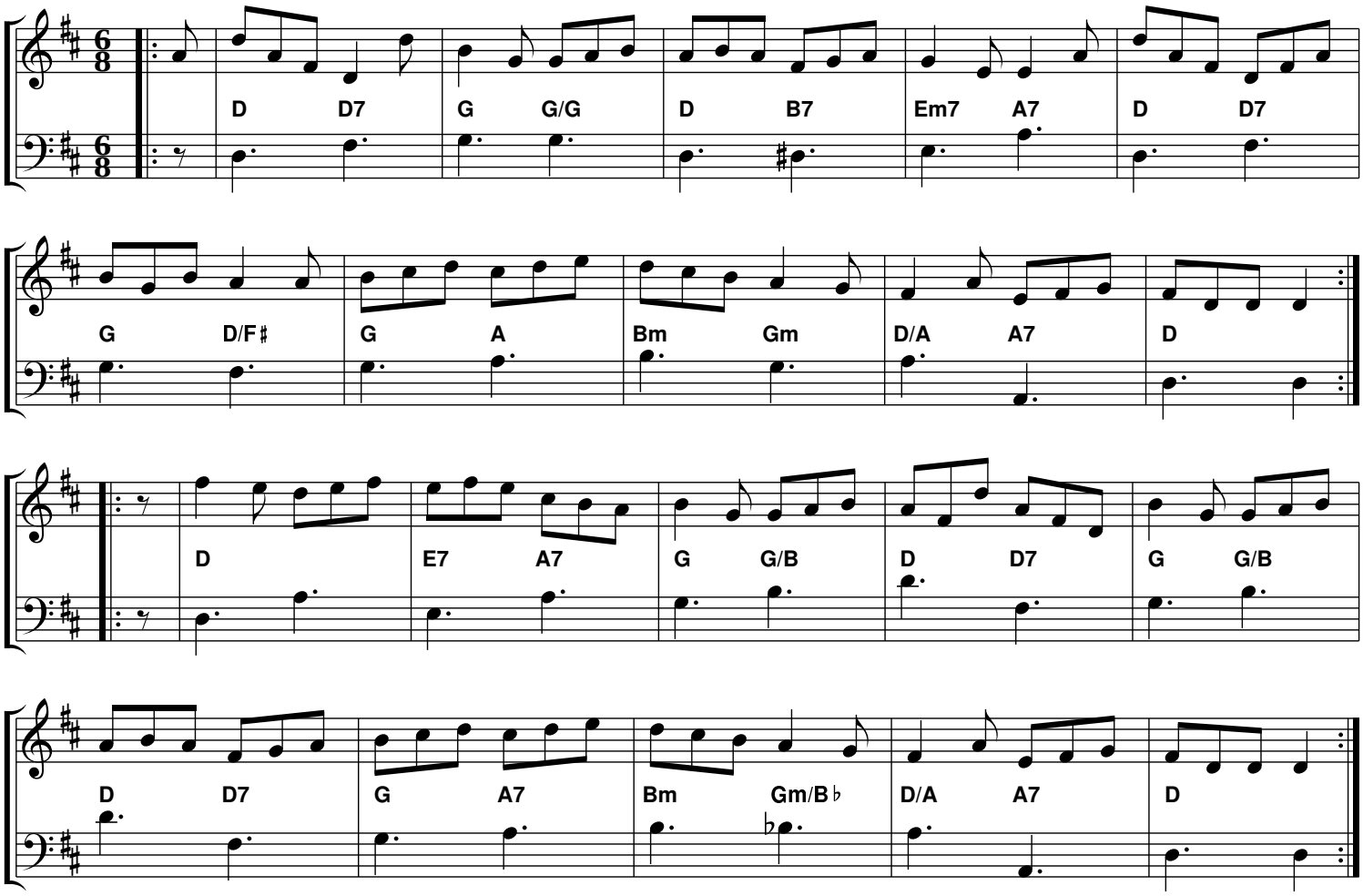
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2005)



For friend and fiddle player Matthew Robertson. He and I have had many, many tunes together, both on and off stage. This tune was recorded as a support tune in the "Lieutenant Zachary Hicks R.N." set on "The Southern Touch".

THE METRIC JIG

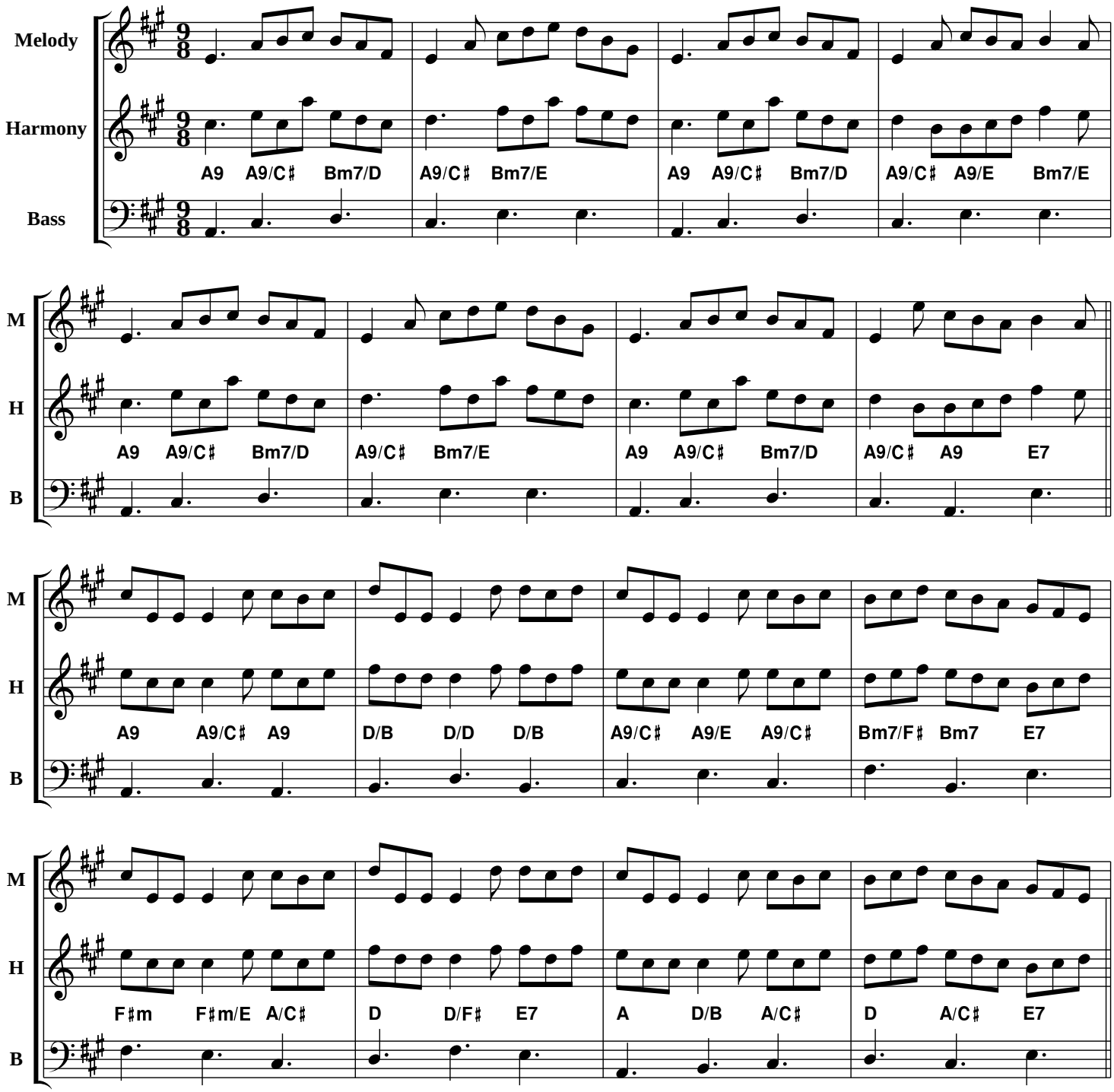
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1987)

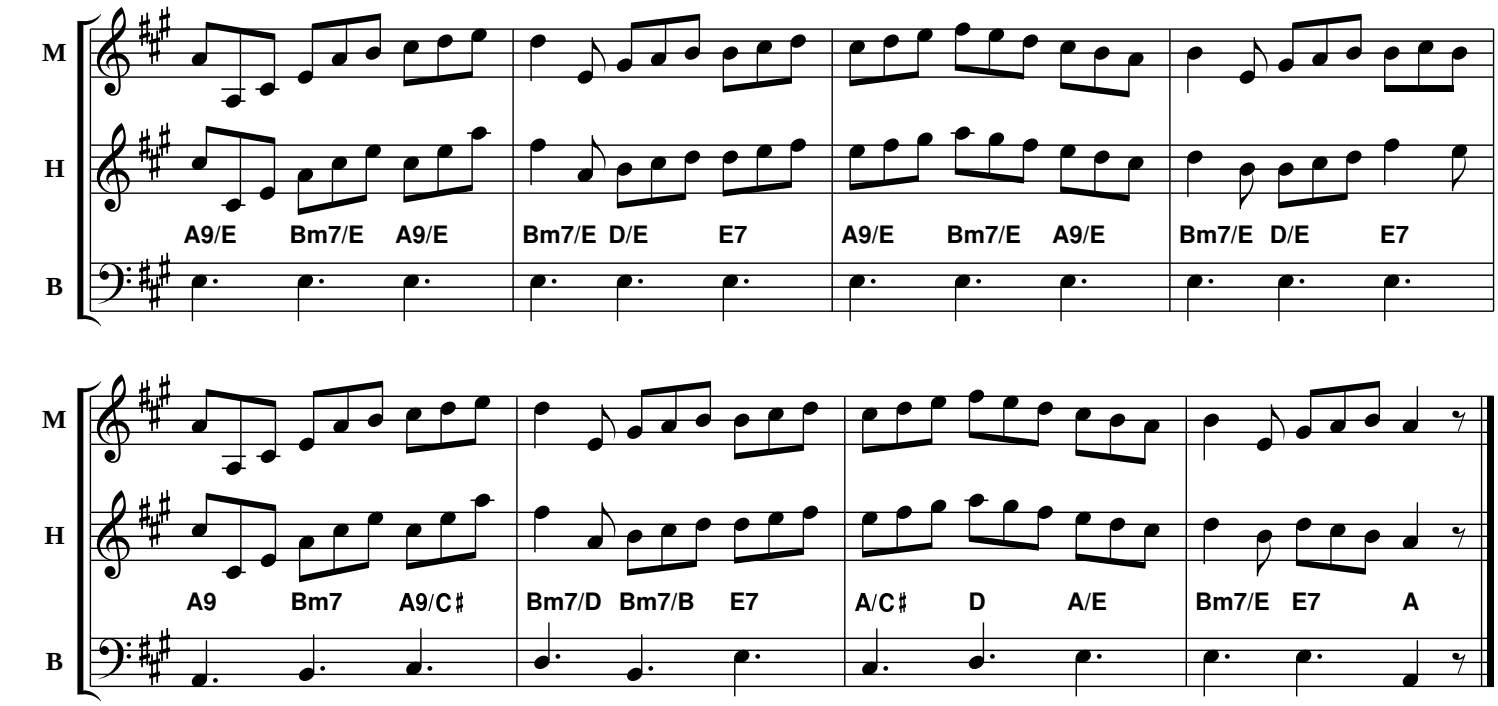


One of my early attempts at composition. You will notice this jig has 10−bar phrases. It was designed to be a fourth tune to go into a set for the Hugh Foss dance "The Wee Cooper Of Fife". We recorded this tune and dance on our first album "Kardinia Capers".

NEIL GOW FOGGO (Slip Jig)

Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2008)

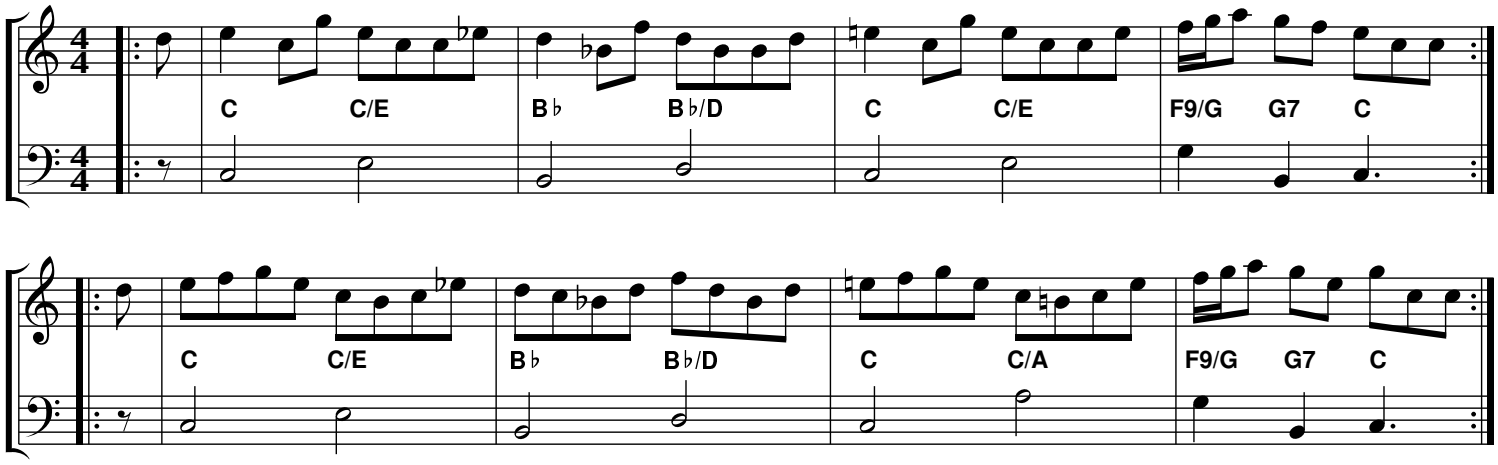




A slip jig to honour the perhaps infamous life of Scots fiddler, Neil Gow Foggo (c.1810−1870), twice transported to Tasmania (or Van Diemen's Land) and interred at Port Arthur Penal Settlement. Foggo's great uncle was Nathaniel Gow, of the famous fiddling clan, also Foggo family guardian. Details of Foggo's life and times were brought to light by my good friend, Peter MacFie, Tasmanian historian, musician and, in the 1980s, staff historian with the Port Arthur Conservation Project. The tune is recorded on the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club's 2009 CD "Gates Of Gold".

BIRLIN' REEL No.1

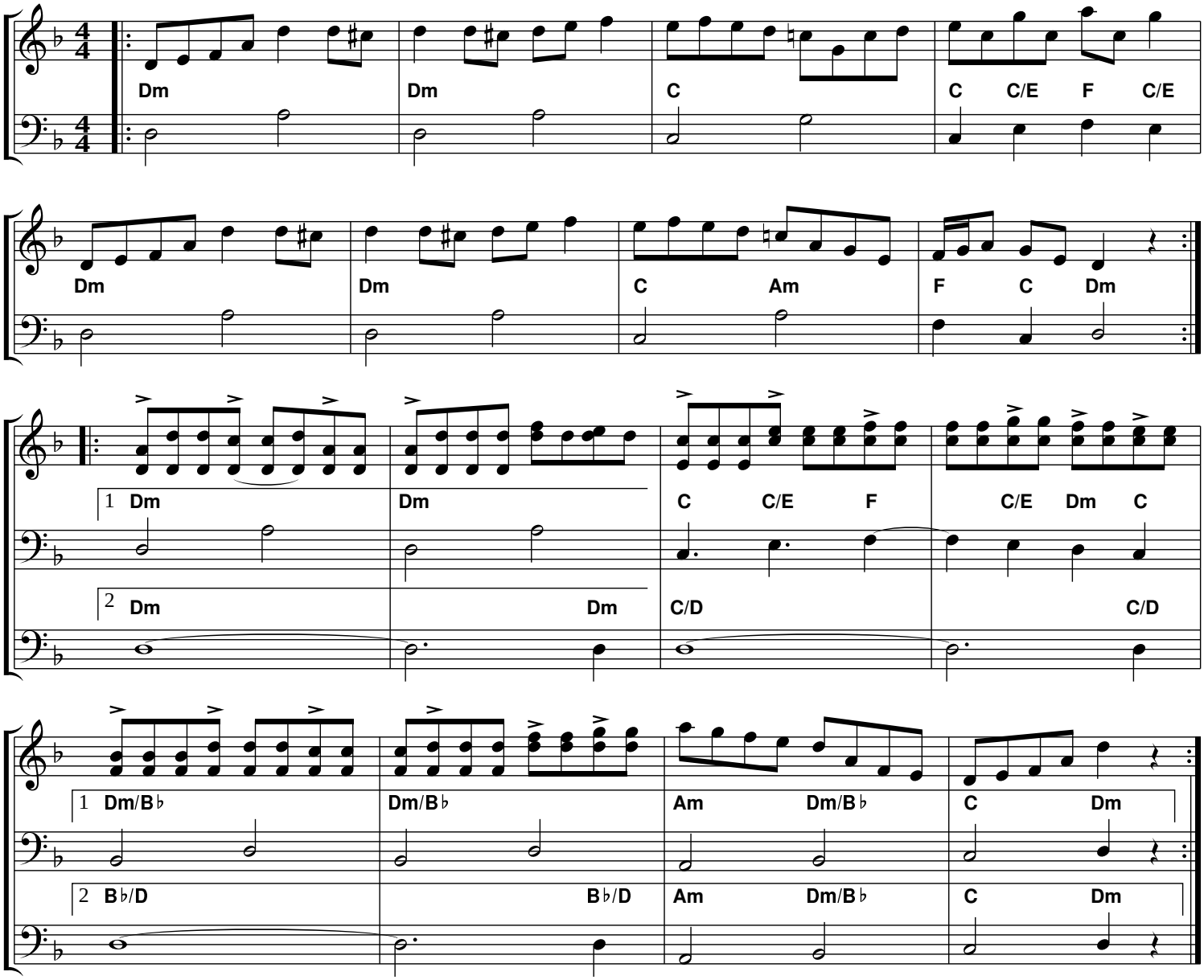
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2011)



A "reely" fast one in the style of the old traditional highland dance reels. Played by skilled fiddlers, a birlin' reel at top speed takes on an intensity that can transport dancers to another plane. No name needed, so "No.1" it is!

ODYSSEY (Reel)

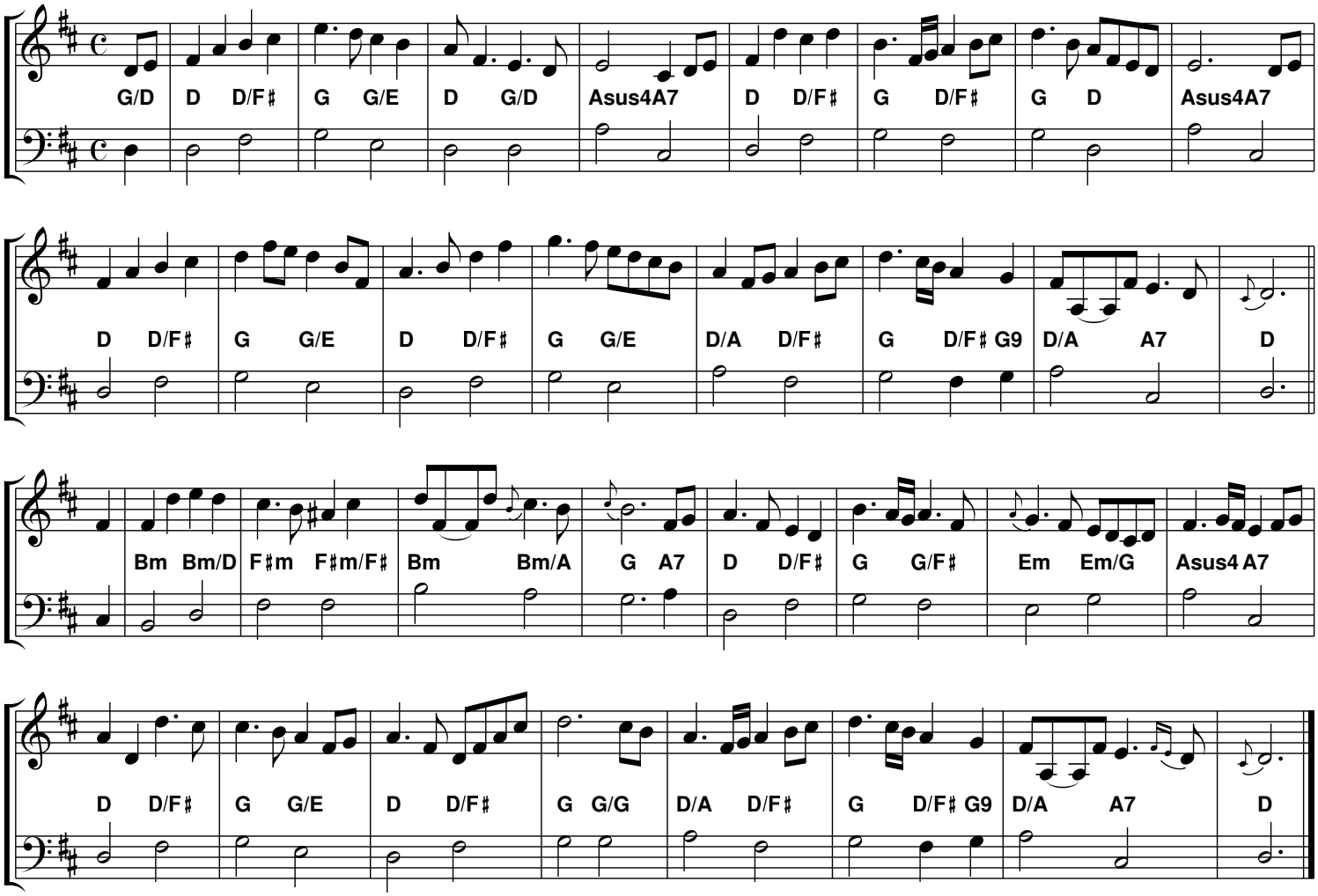
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2001)



Written for the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Australian Winter School held in Brisbane in 2001, titled "2001 − A Dance Odyssey". This tune features on the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club's 2009 CD "Gates of Gold", as part of an award−winning set of original compositions by fiddle teachers in the group

REMEMBERING MARGARET GREER (Air)

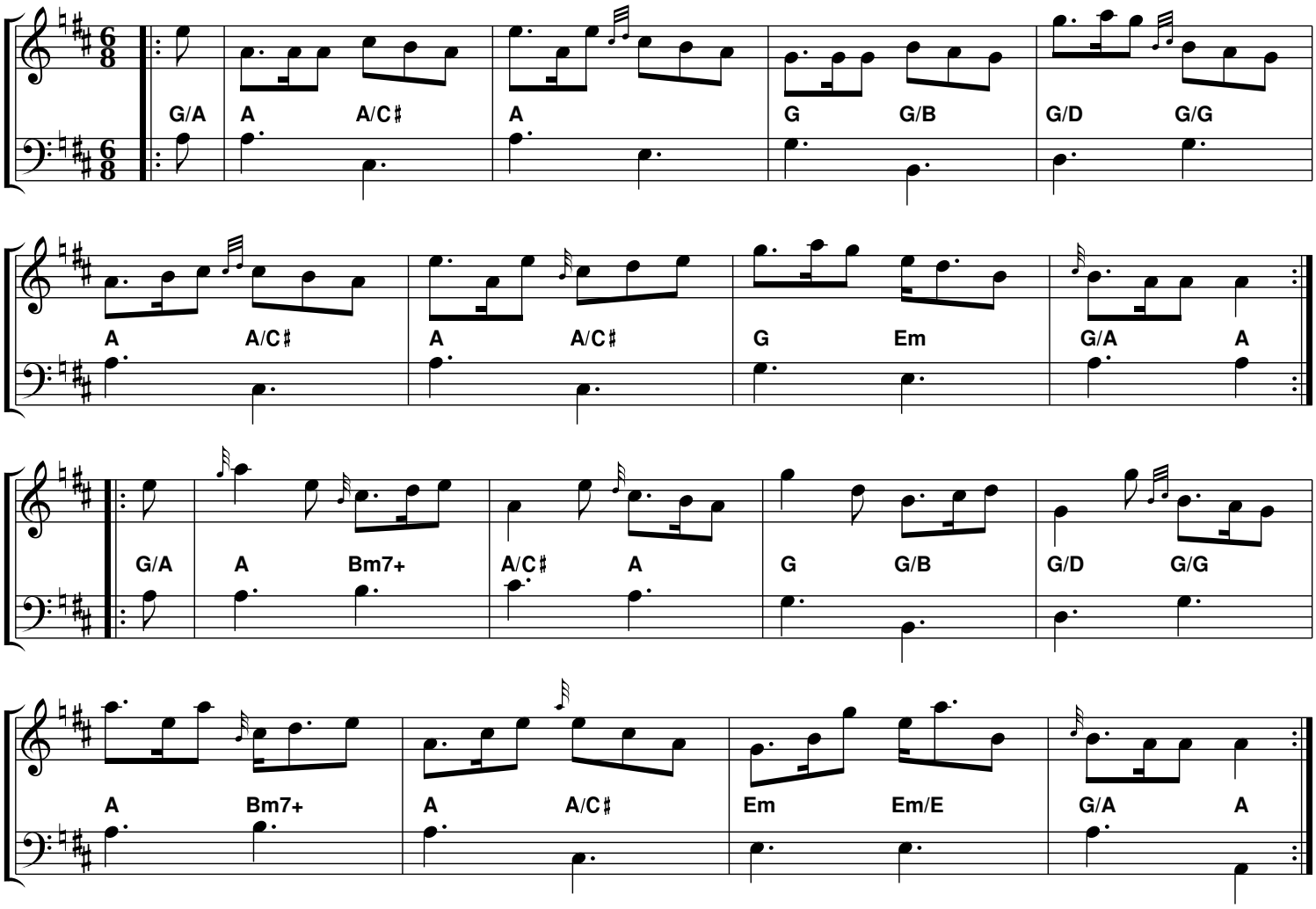
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 1996)

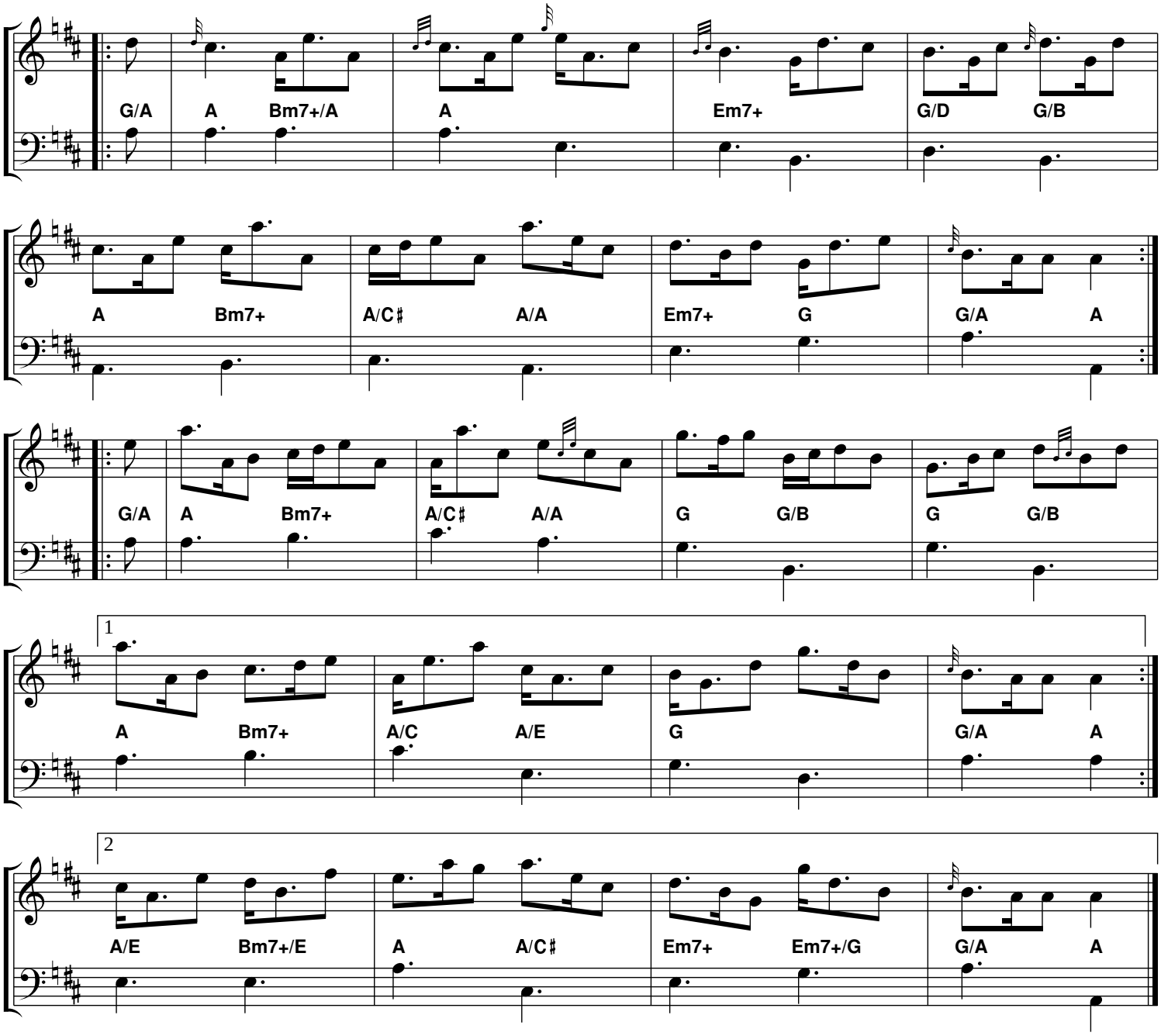


Composed in memory of Margaret Greer − a stylish and elegant dancer and teacher at the Box Hill Scottish Society. Margaret died in 1994, too early after a battle with cancer.

PIPIN' THE FIDDLE (March)

Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 1995)

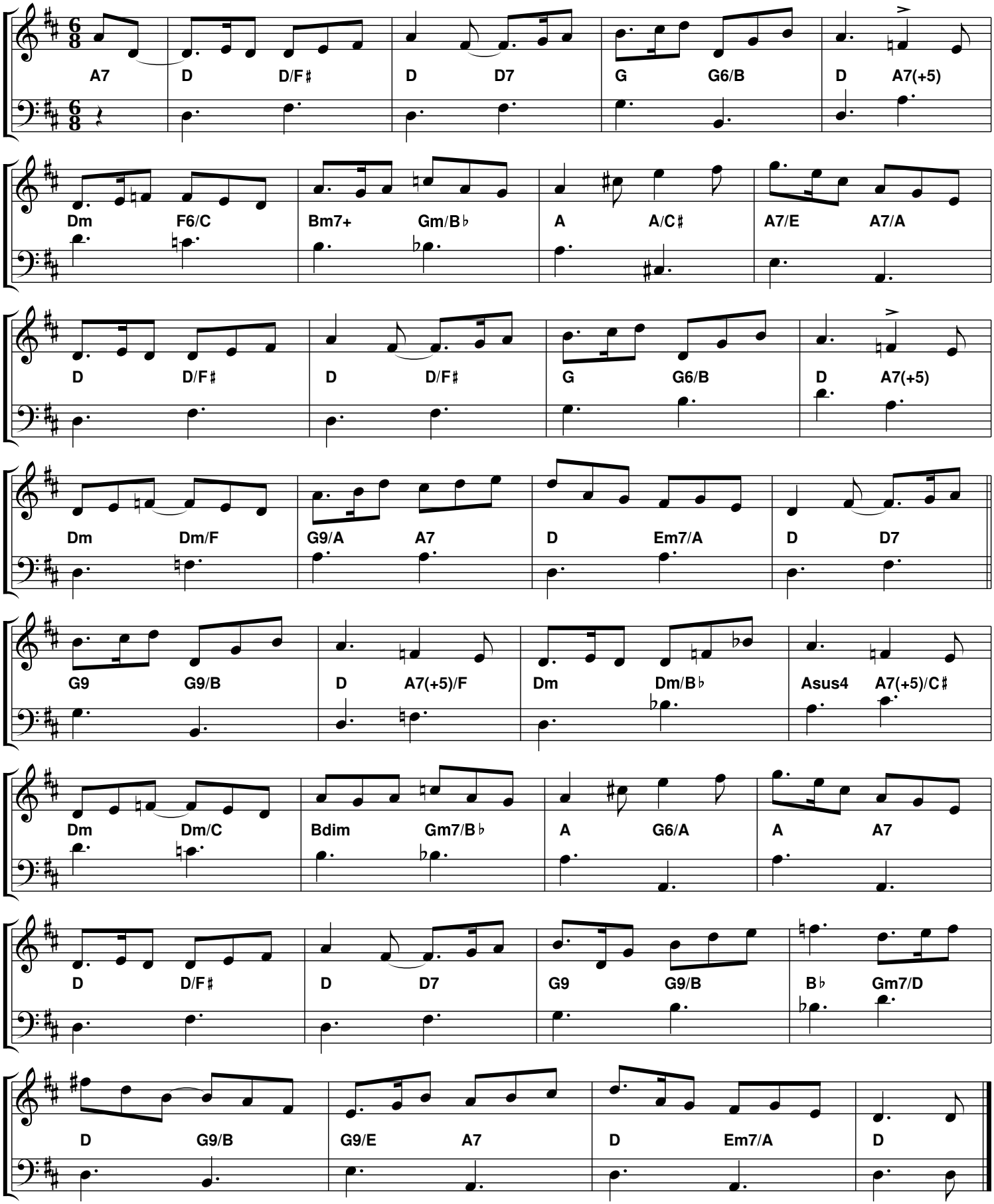




Where fiddles and bagpipes meet − the 4−part pipe march allows a musical story to develop and piping ornamentations to be explored.

THE SCOTSCRAIG BALL (Jig)

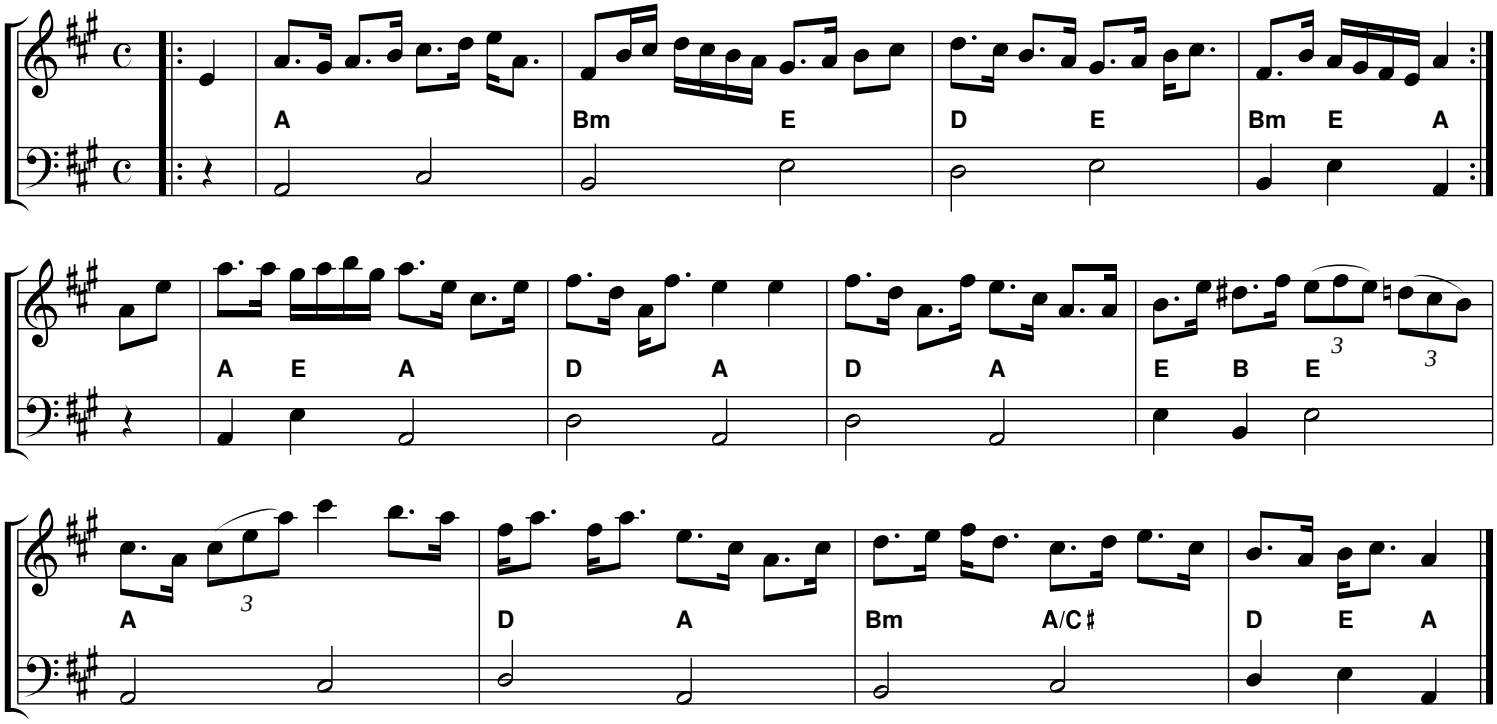
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2010)



Written to celebrate the Scotscraig Scottish Country Dance Group's 50th anniversary and performed for the first time at the Anniversary Ball held on 23 October, 2010 at Williamstown Town Hall, Melbourne, Australia.

THE SHORES OF HAMILTON (Strathspey)

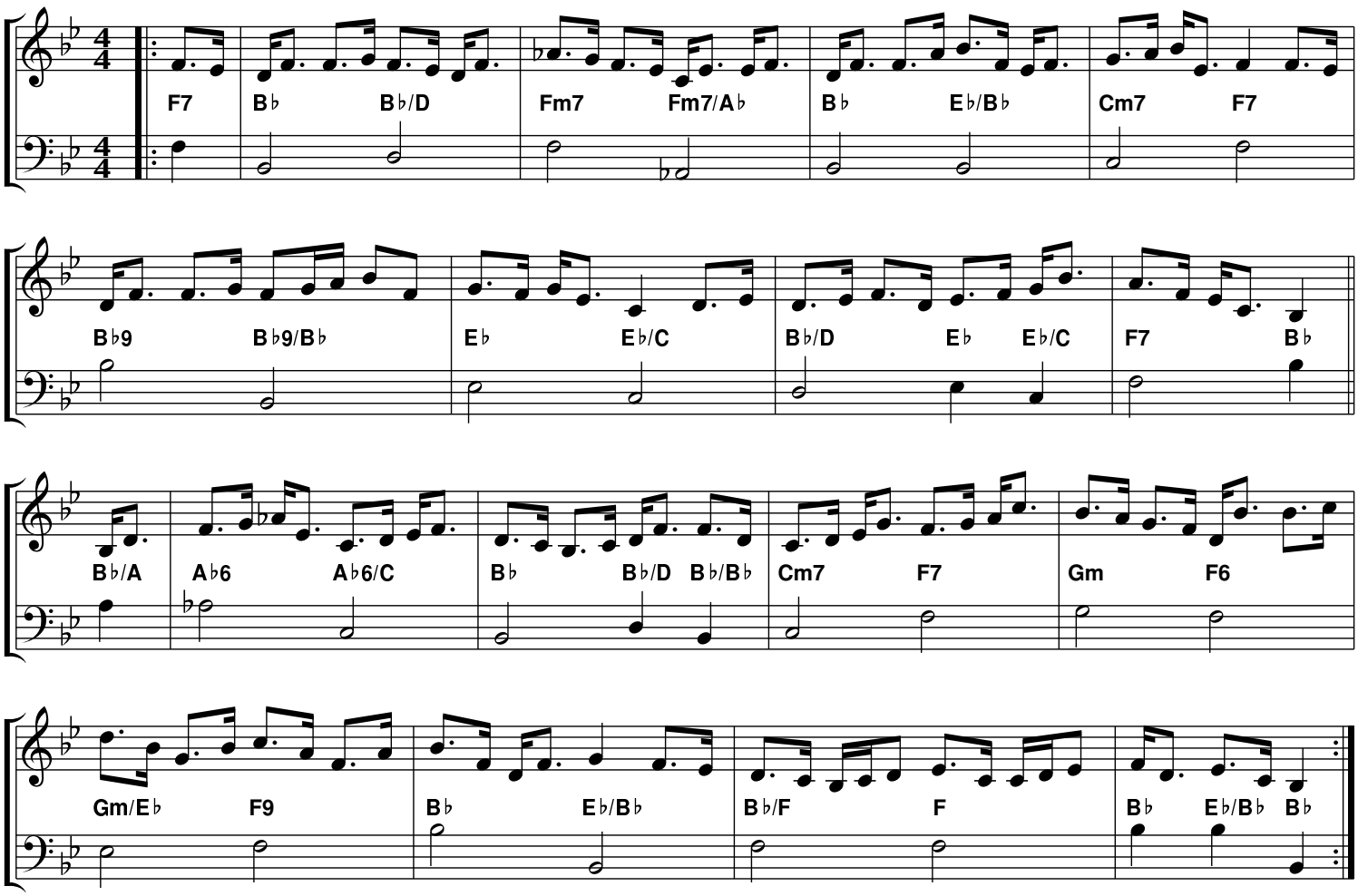
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1989)



For June and Sam Shore of Hamilton, Ontario, family friends since the 1950s. An inspirational dancer and teacher, June was the Full Certificate class tutor for many years at the annual Teachers' Association of Canada (TAC) Summer School.

STRATHSPEY FOR CHRIS & CATHERINE

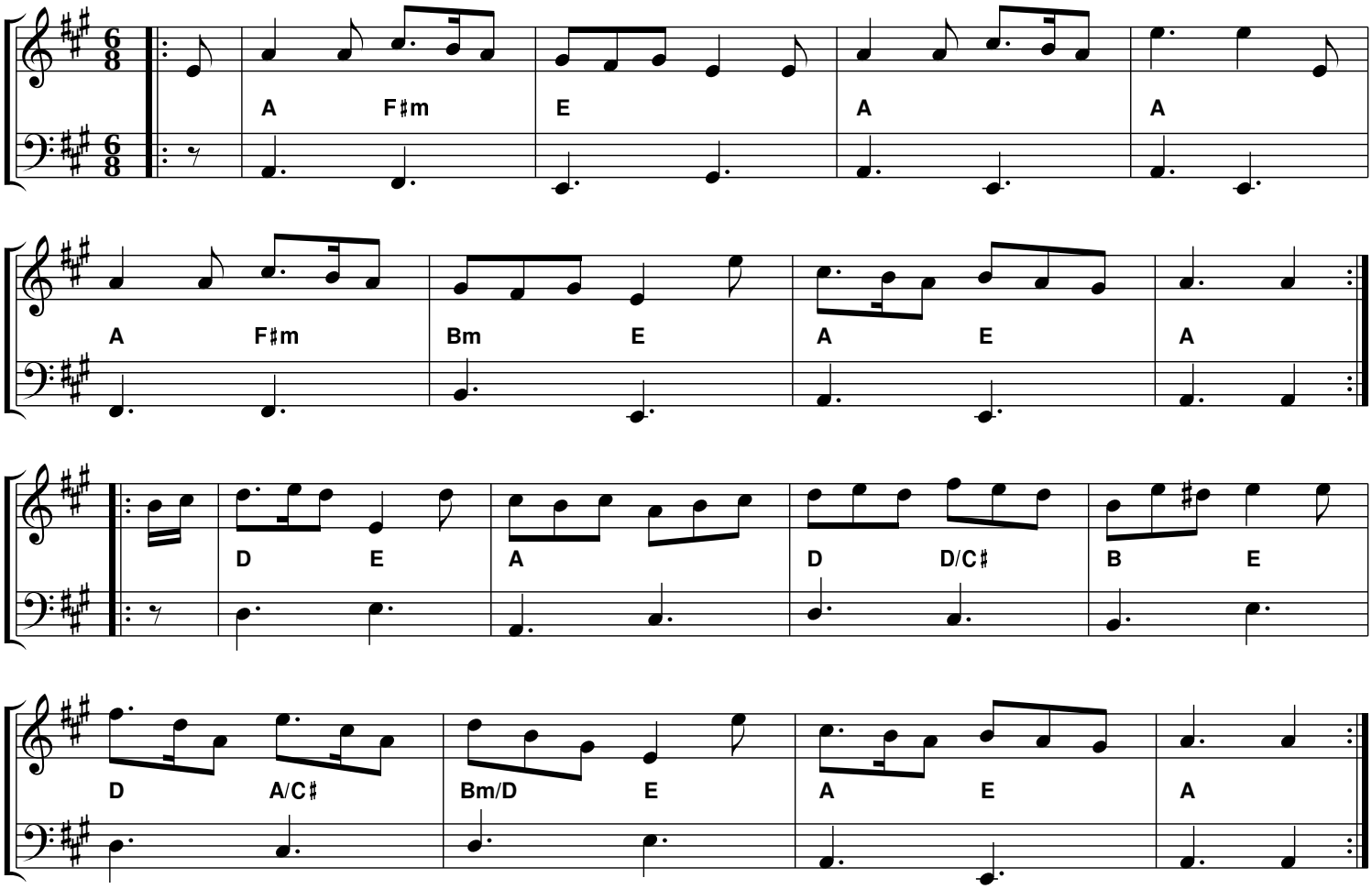
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2011)



For Australia's master Scottish fiddler, Chris Duncan and pianist Catherine Strutt, for the occasion of their wedding in 2011 and for all the great traditional music they've given to so many people over so many years.

TEA & TOAST (Jig)

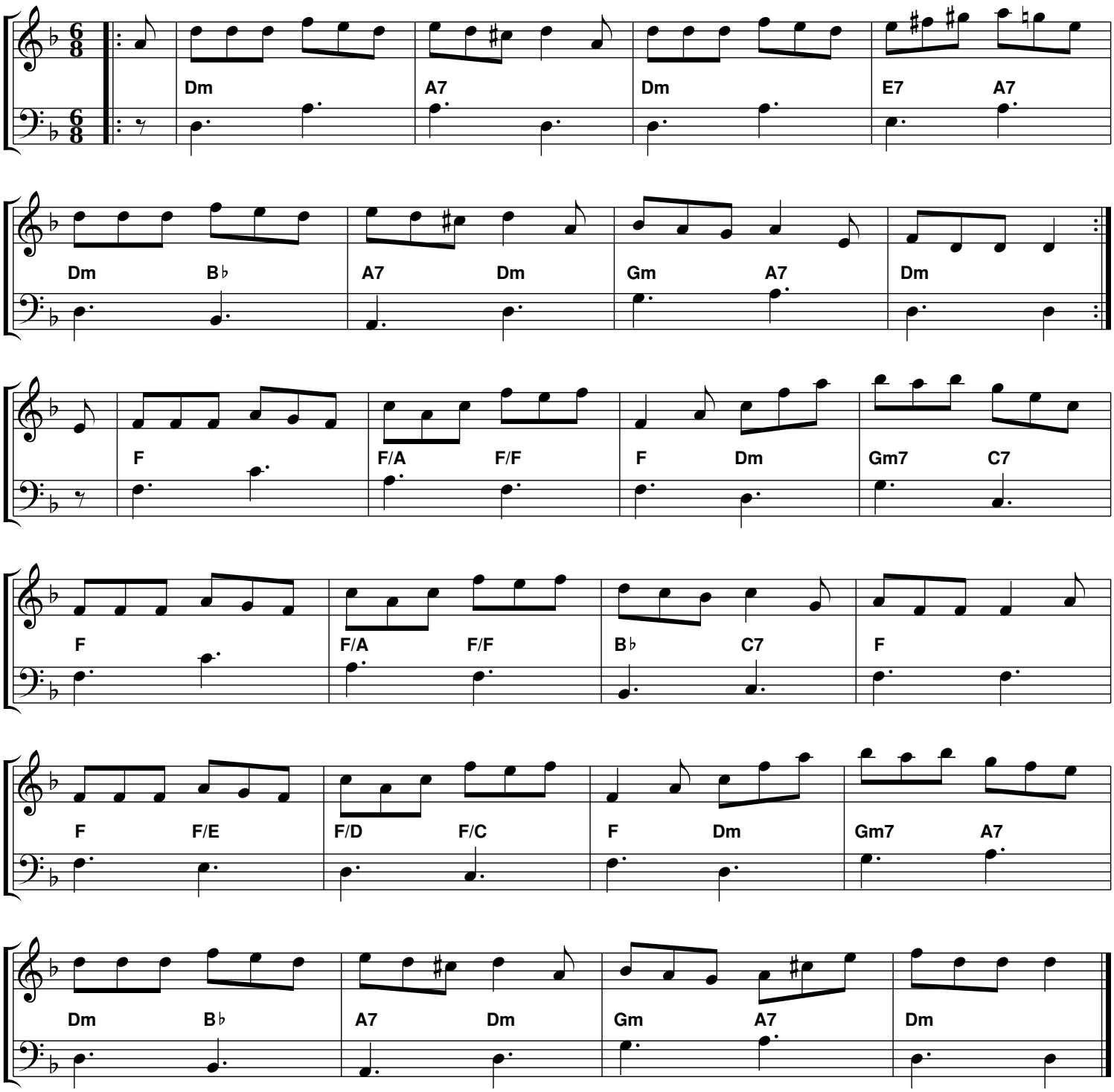
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1980)



A favourite breakfast.

TO THE LAIRD (Jig)

Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2009)

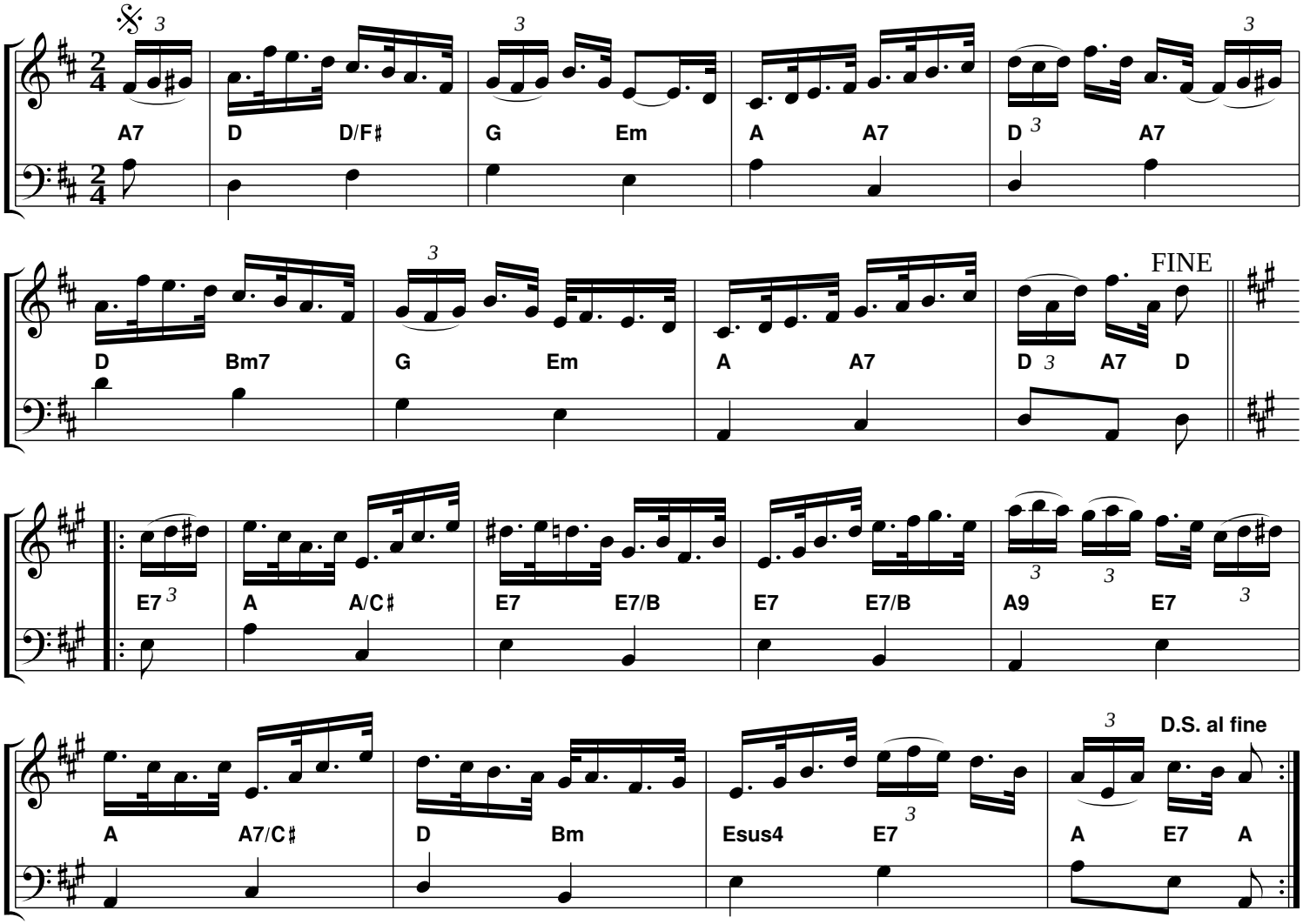


The title tune of our 2009 recording and dedicated to my late father James. One of his many nicknames was "The Laird". The tune was in the set for "The Laird Of Milton's Daughter". The dance class my Mum & Dad conducted was called "The Scottish Country Dance Club (Milton) Brisbane" − Milton was the suburb of Brisbane the class started in. This is where the nickname came from.

When Dad passed away, it was this club that funded the production of the CD "To The Laird". The club no longer exists, but thanks to their foresight, there is now a lasting memorial to Dad, recognising his enormous contribution to Scottish Country Dancing in this part of the world.

UILLEAM & BEV TAIT'S SCHOTTISCHE

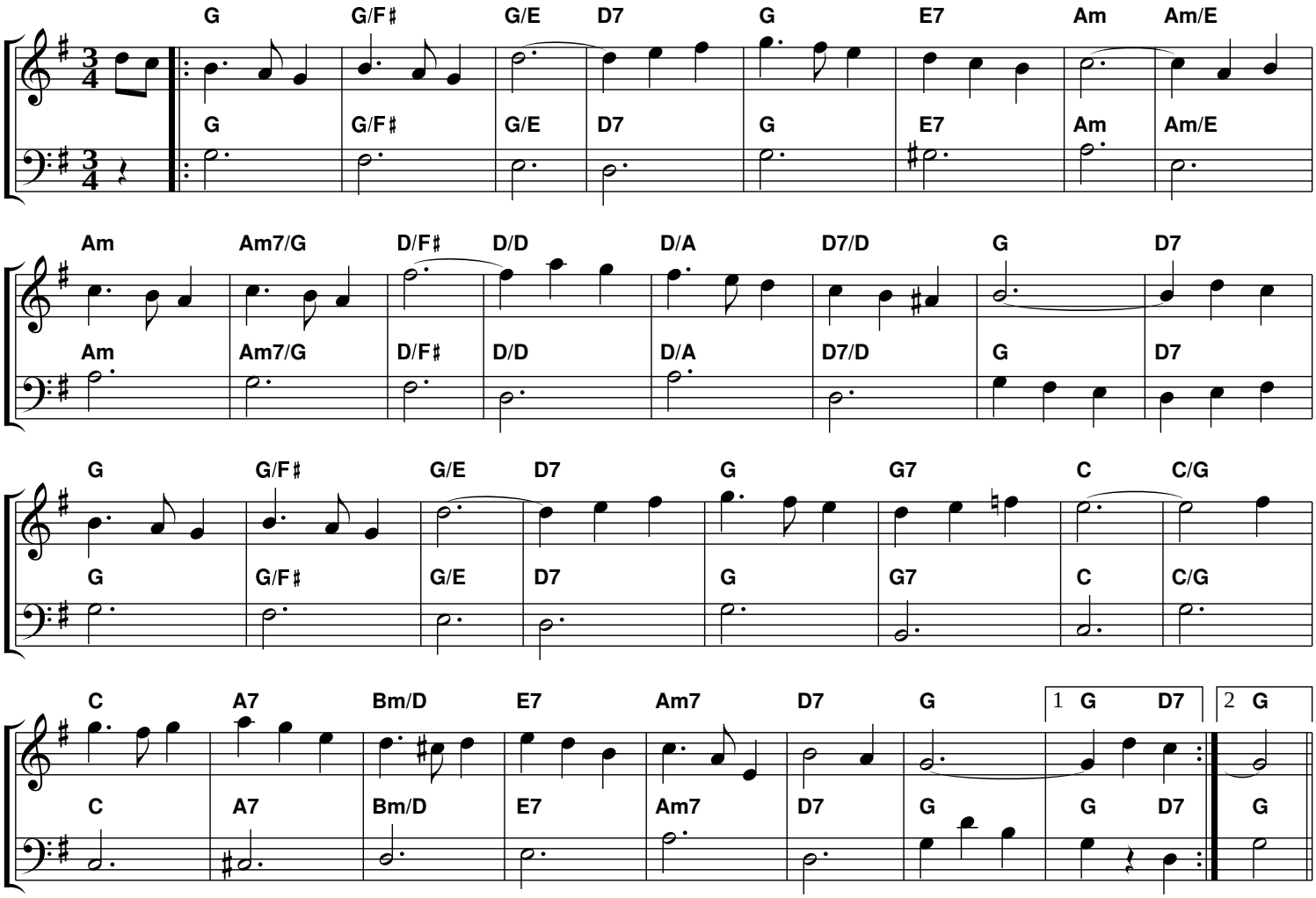
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2001)

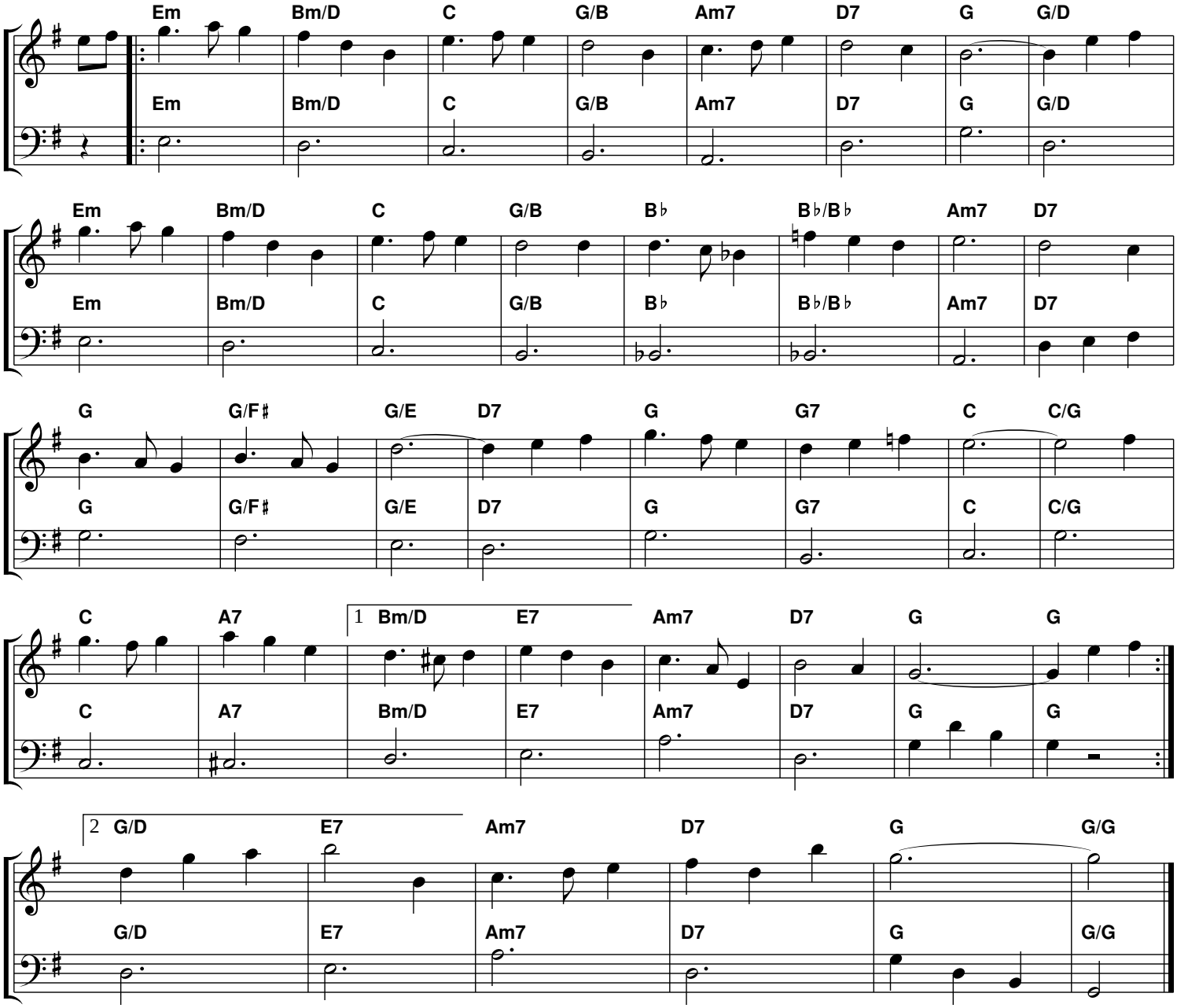


For Uilleam and Bev Tait and their daughter Cairistiona, a family of dancers and teachers in Melbourne's Scottish dance scene. Wherever a schottische couple−dance is on a program, at least one Tait will likely be on the floor for it.

WALTZY–SHMALTZY

Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2006)





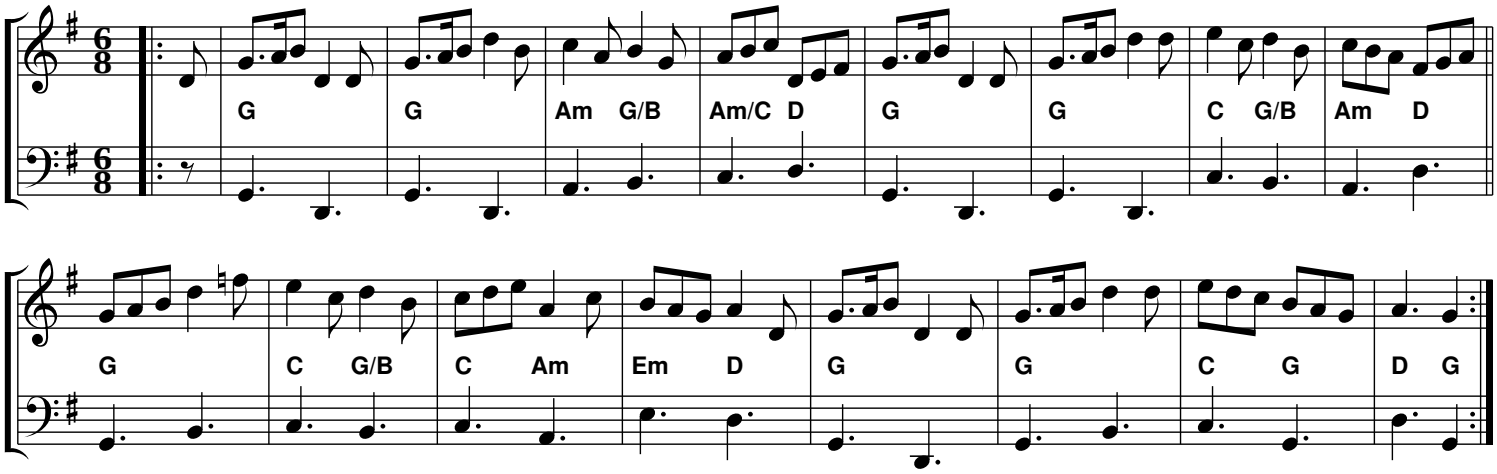
A waltz dedicated to Melbourne SCD teacher, dance devisor and long−time friend Frances Wallace. She was a guest teacher at my wife's dance class and I was playing for her that evening. In the preparations leading up to the night, Frances was giving me her preferences for the warm−up exercises she does and happened to mention that she wanted a waltz with the remark "oh the usual − just something waltzy−shmaltzy." The tune above is the result of that little spark of inspiration!

THE ST CATHARINE'S SET (8 tunes)

The following eight tunes were all composed in 1986, the year I attended the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Teacher's Full Certificate Course in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, as both candidate and class pianist. These tunes were all inspired by various people and events in St Catharines.

A TRIBUTE TO ST CATHARINES (Jig)

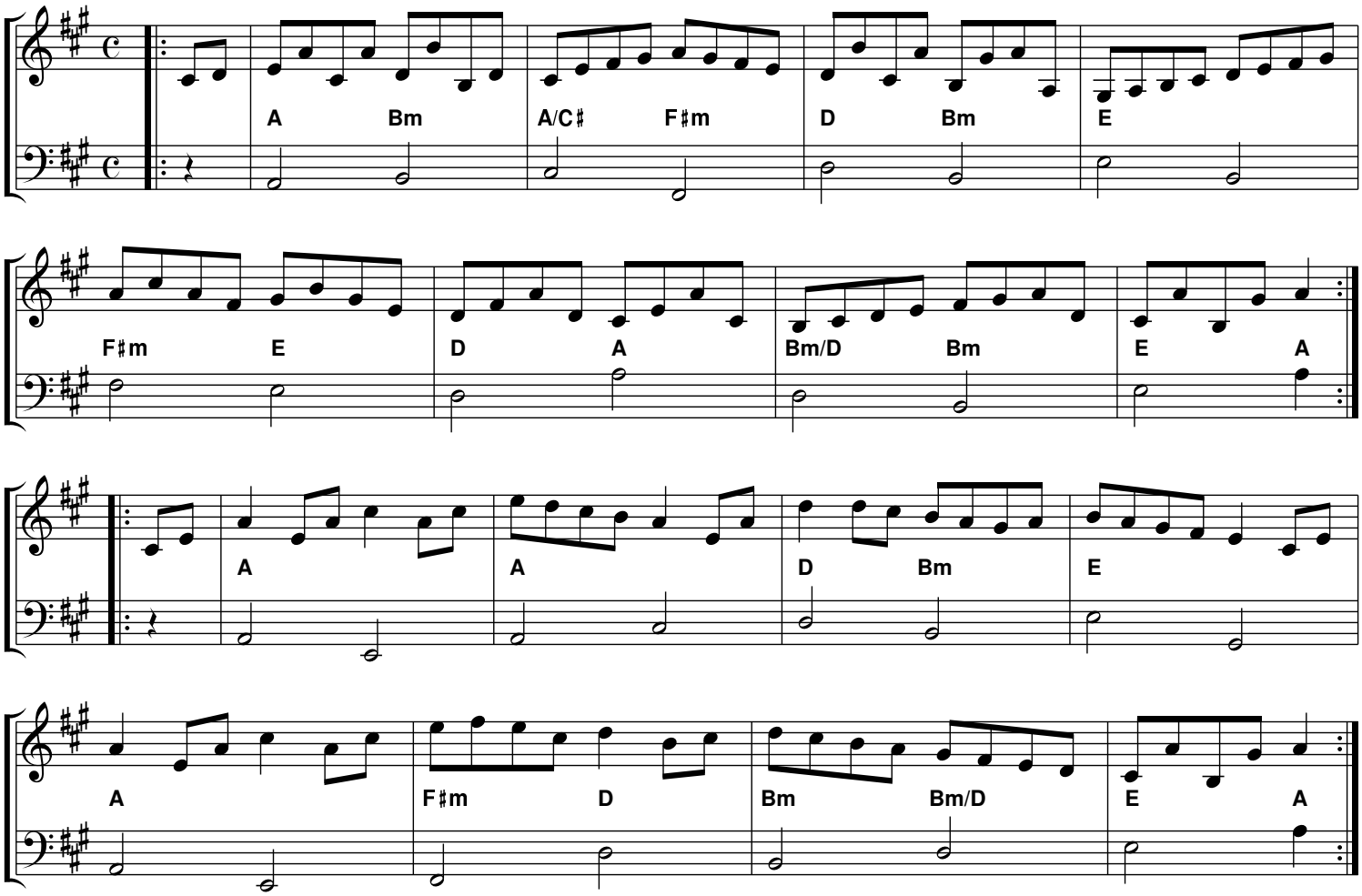
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)



A jig named for the great venue used for many years by the Teachers' Association, Canada (TAC) for their annual Summer Schools.

THE EXAMINATION (Reel)

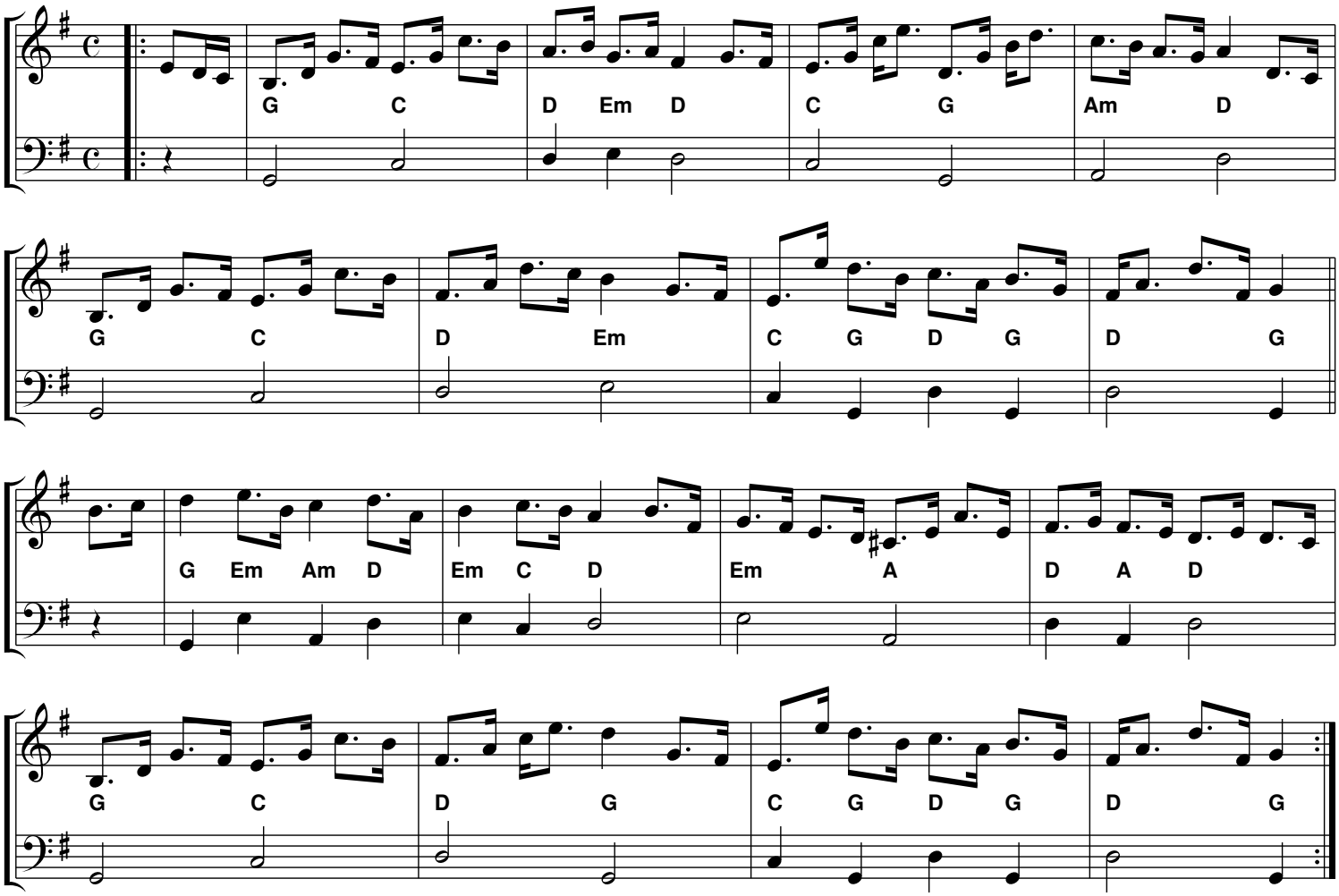
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)



The only thing I can say about this tune is that the examination was "intense"!

MR RICHARD WOOD (Strathspey)

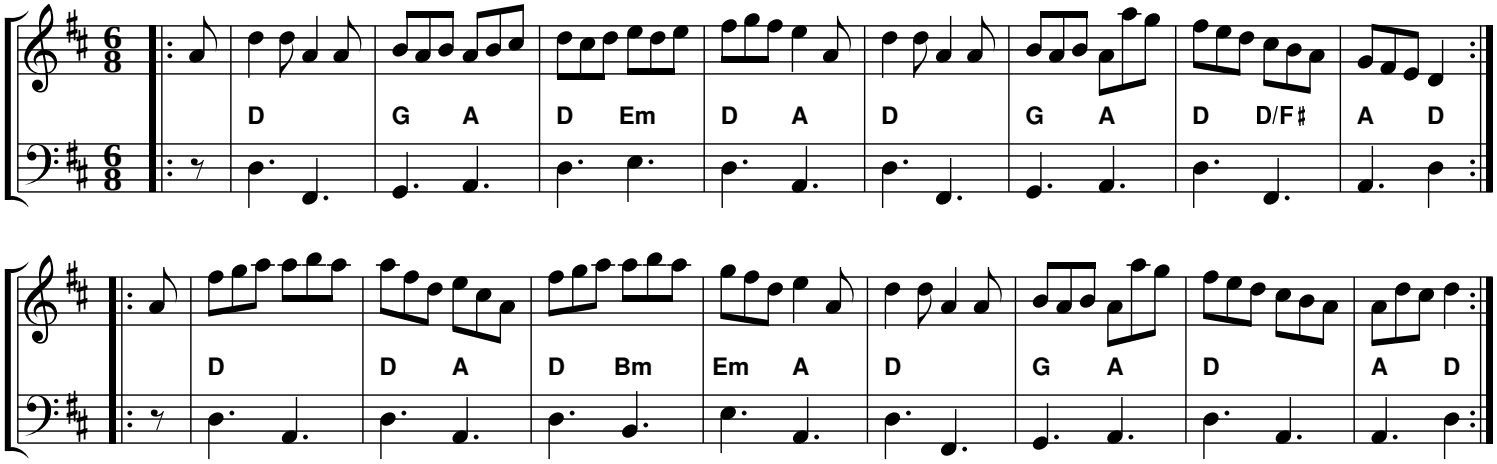
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)



For Rick Wood of Colorado.

CANDIDATES' FANCY (Jig)

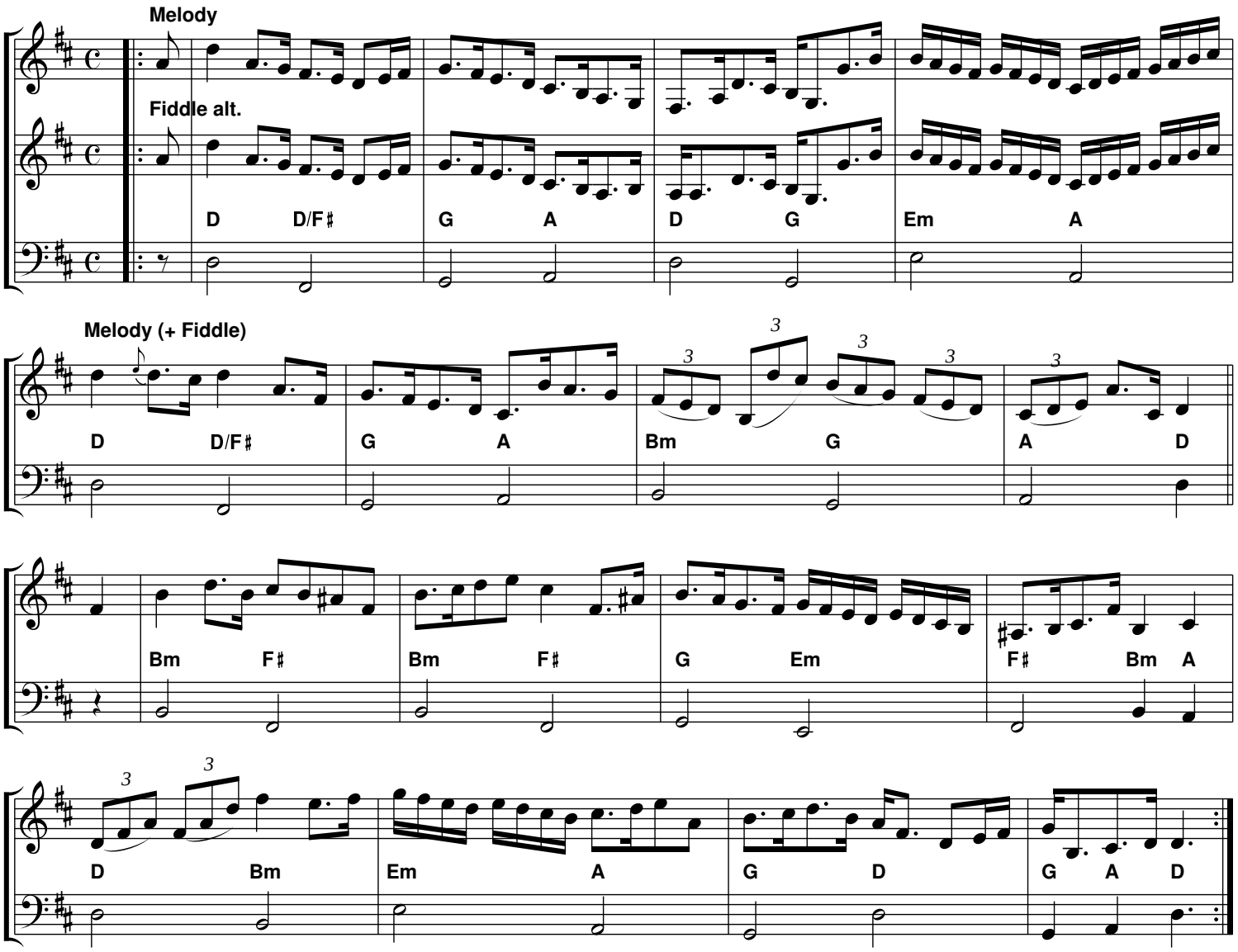
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)



To all the candidates from the 1986 TAC Summer School, with best wishes for happy dancing, wherever the dance may lead you.

SARA ELIZABETH (Strathspey)

Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)

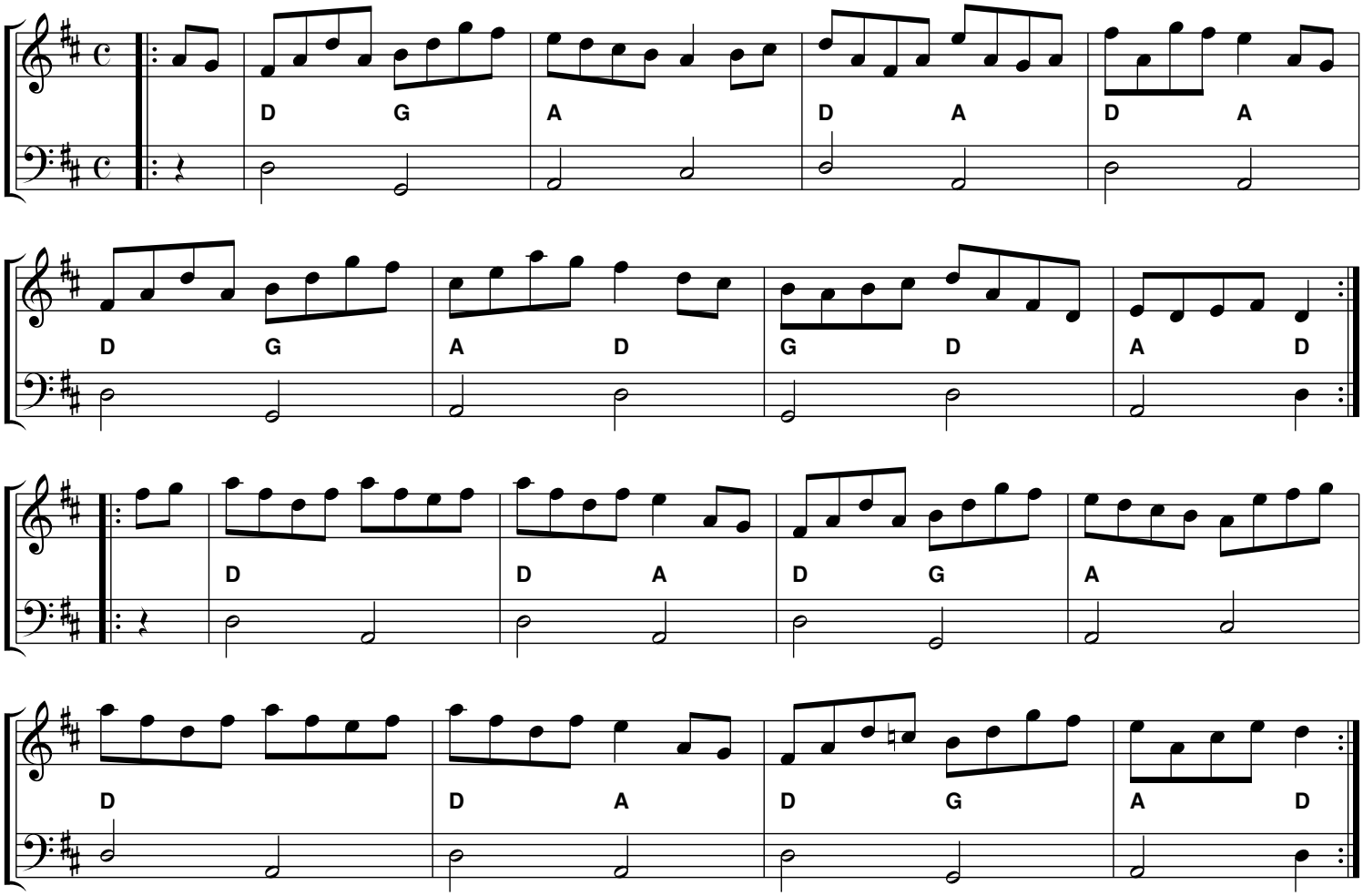


For another of the candidates in the "Class of 1986" − Sara Gratiot of California

Note re bars 2 & 3: I composed this tune before being made aware that it went too low for the range of the fiddle. The modification here was suggested to me by Susan Worland and recorded on our album "Dancin' Music".

DR BILL MILLER (Reel)

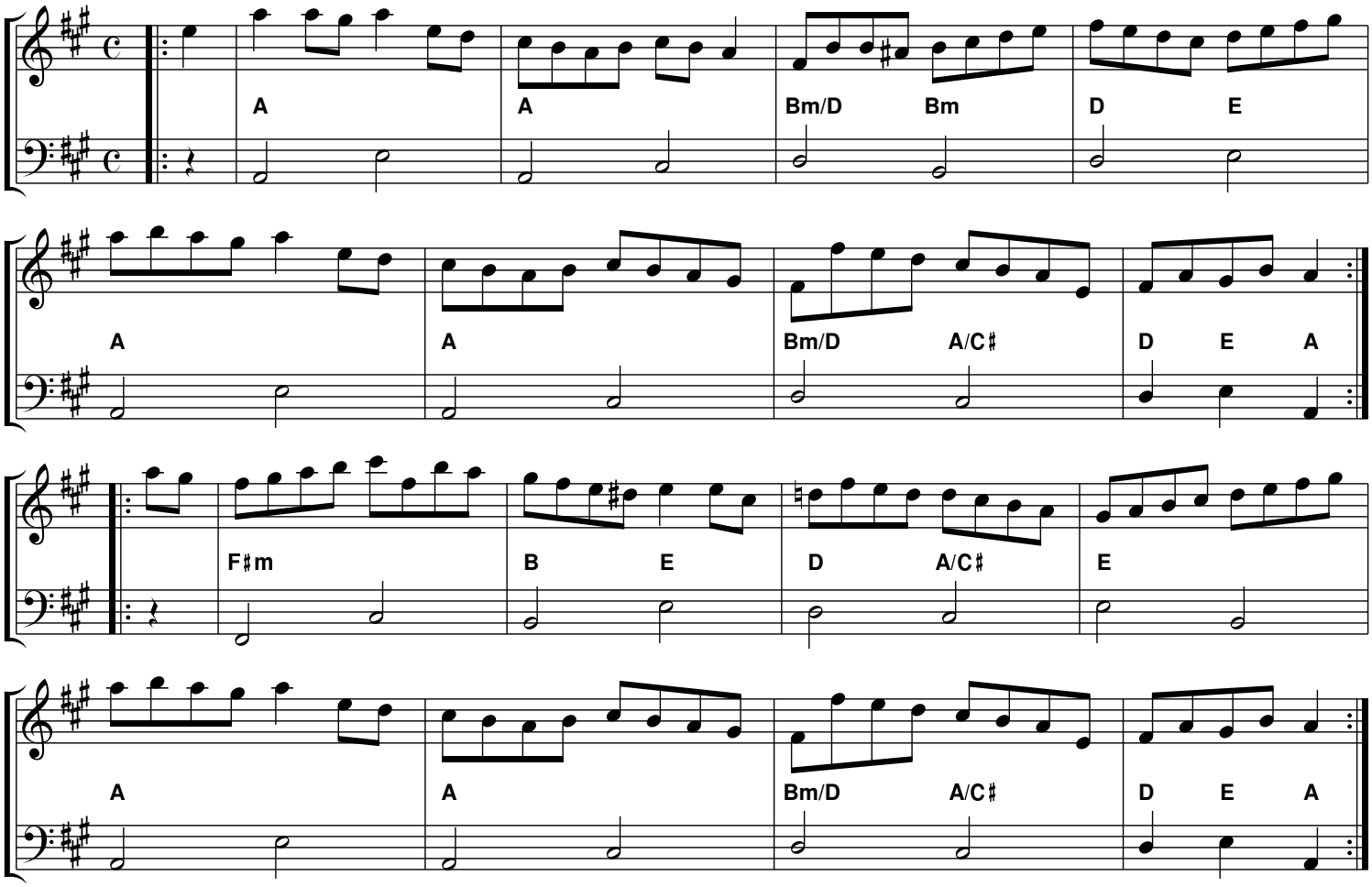
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)



Dr Bill Miller was Chariman of the TAC at the time I attended the Teaching Certificate course in 1986.

THE THUNDERBOLT (Reel)

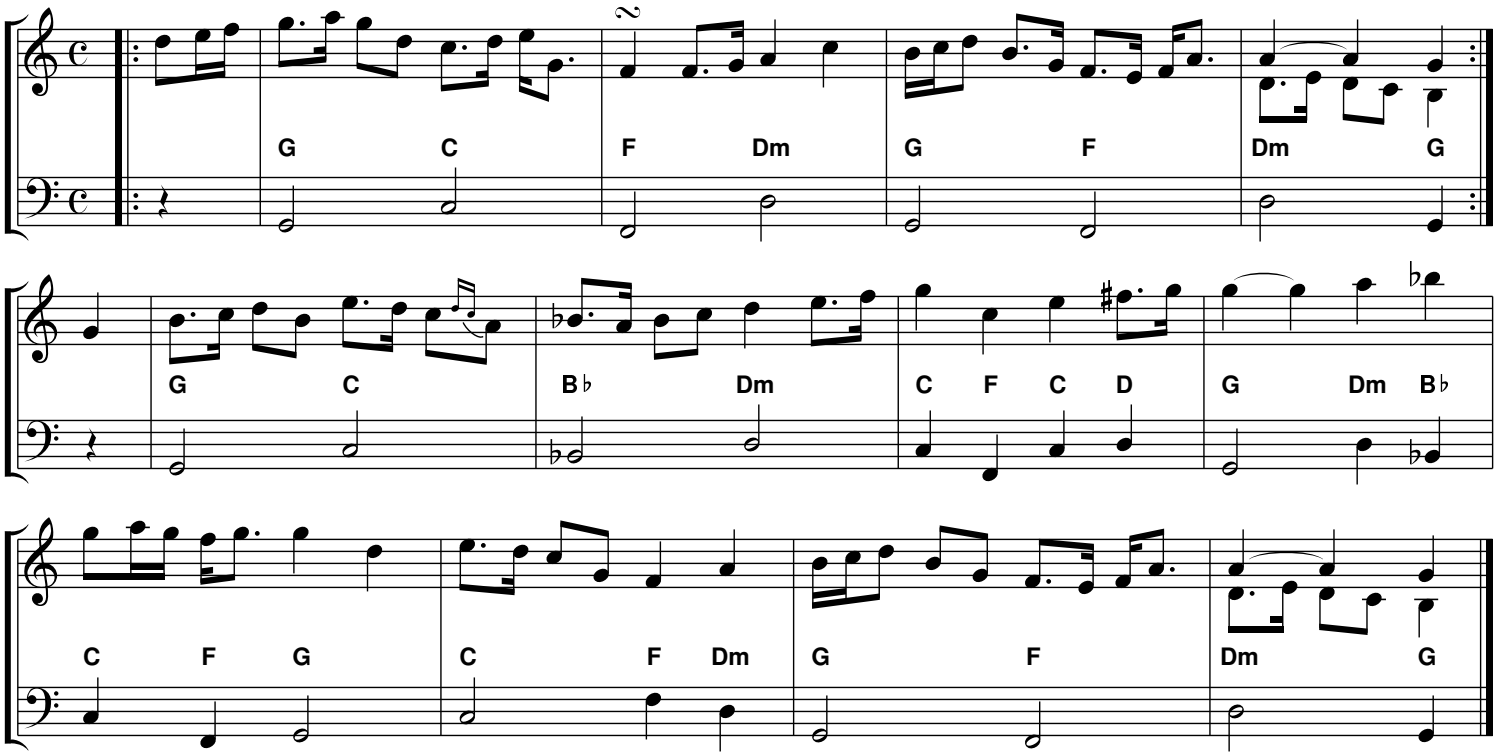
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)



Sometimes things just occur to you like a bolt out of the blue.

THE LAGAN STRATHSPEY

Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1986)

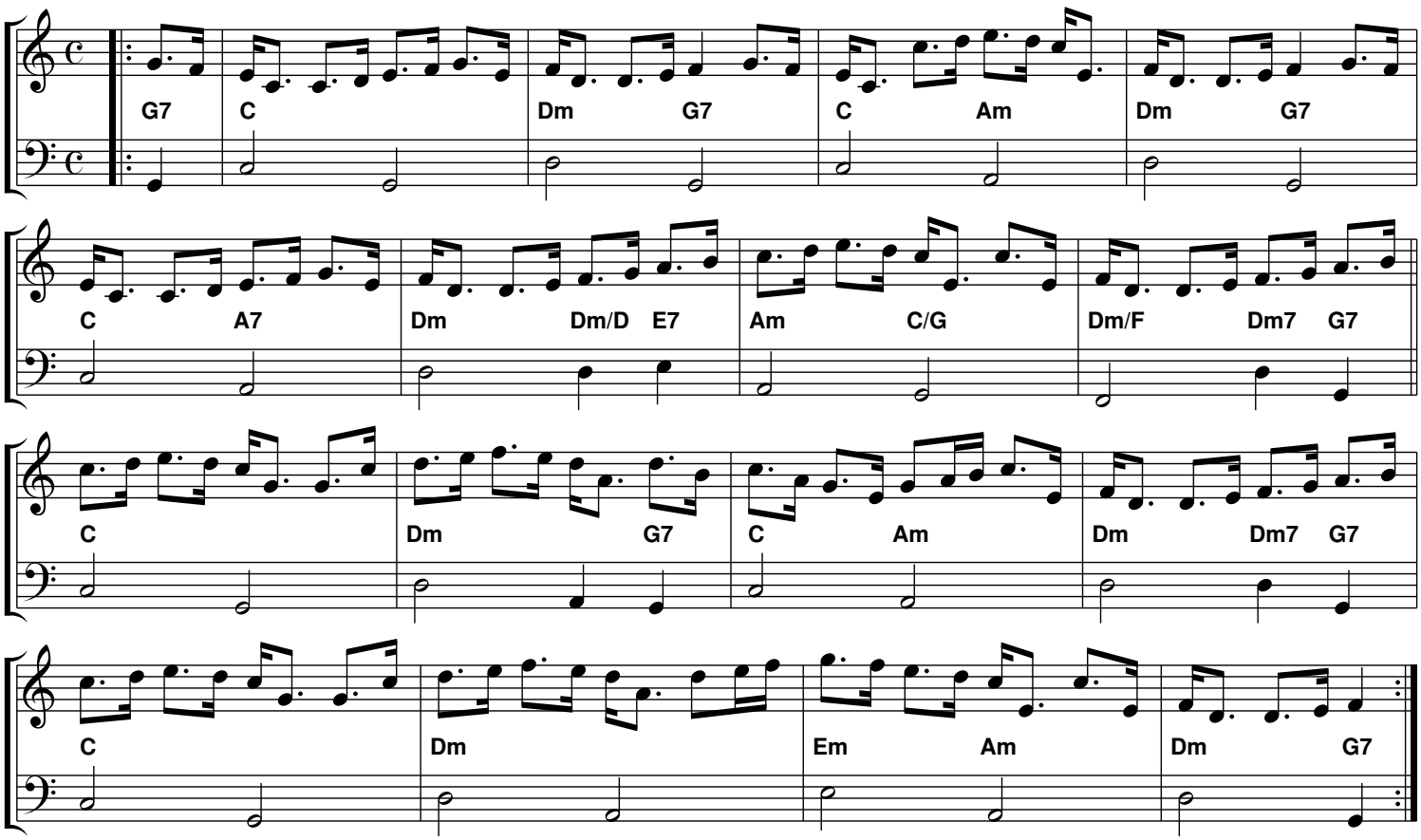


I confess that I can't remember why I wrote this, or what the title means.

A MEDLEY FOR ROBERT O. SMITH (2 tunes)

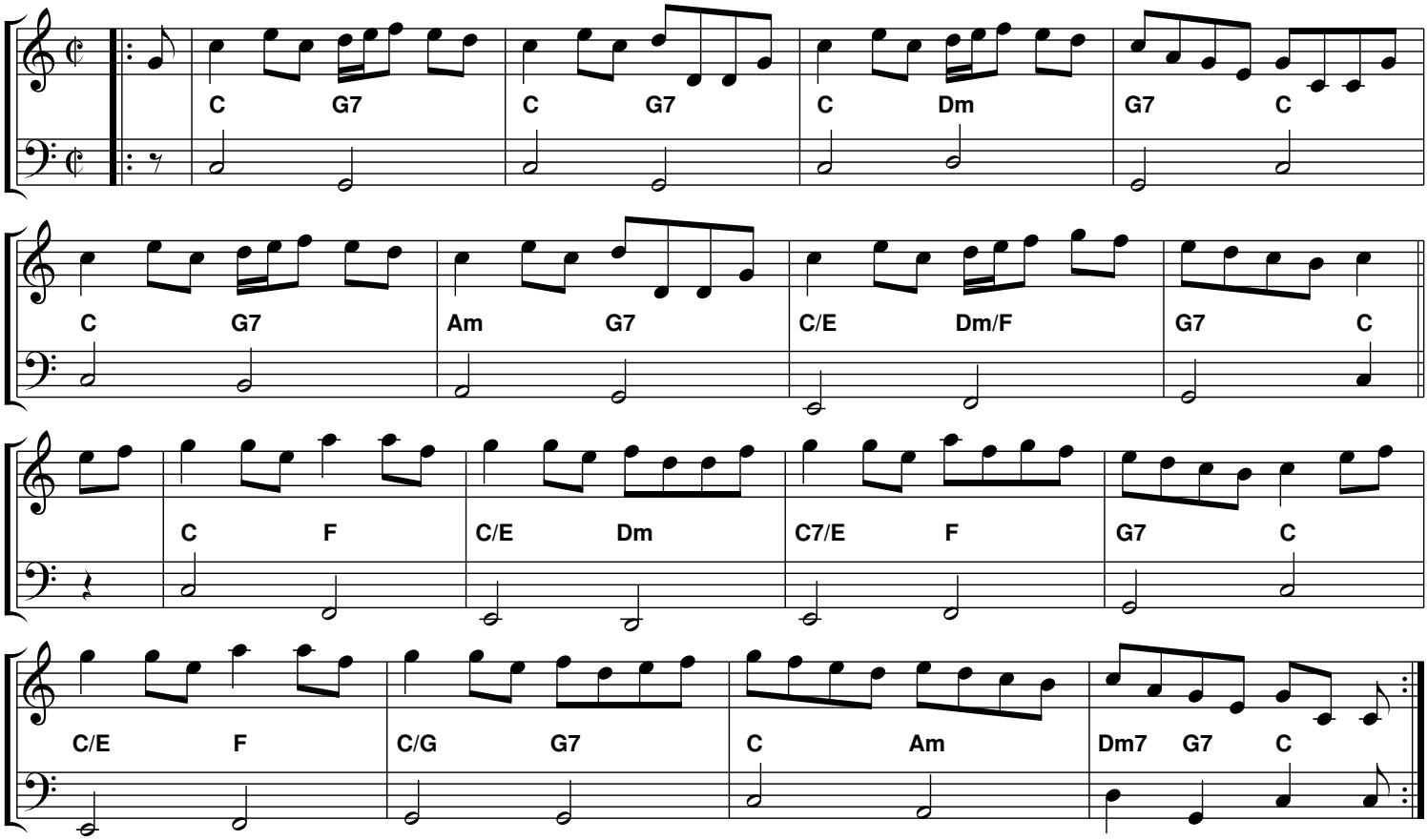
ROBERT SMITH (Strathspey)

Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 2003)



R.O.'s REEL

Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 2003)

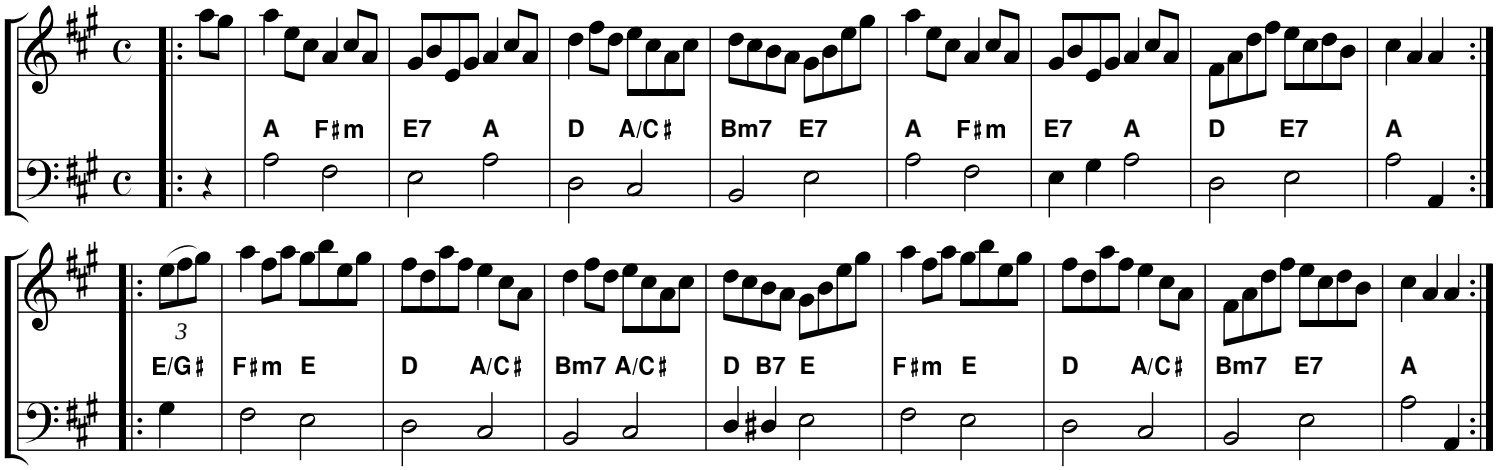


A strathspey and a reel for my stepfather who celebrated his 80th birthday in 2003.

INNES DANCERS' SET (2 tunes)

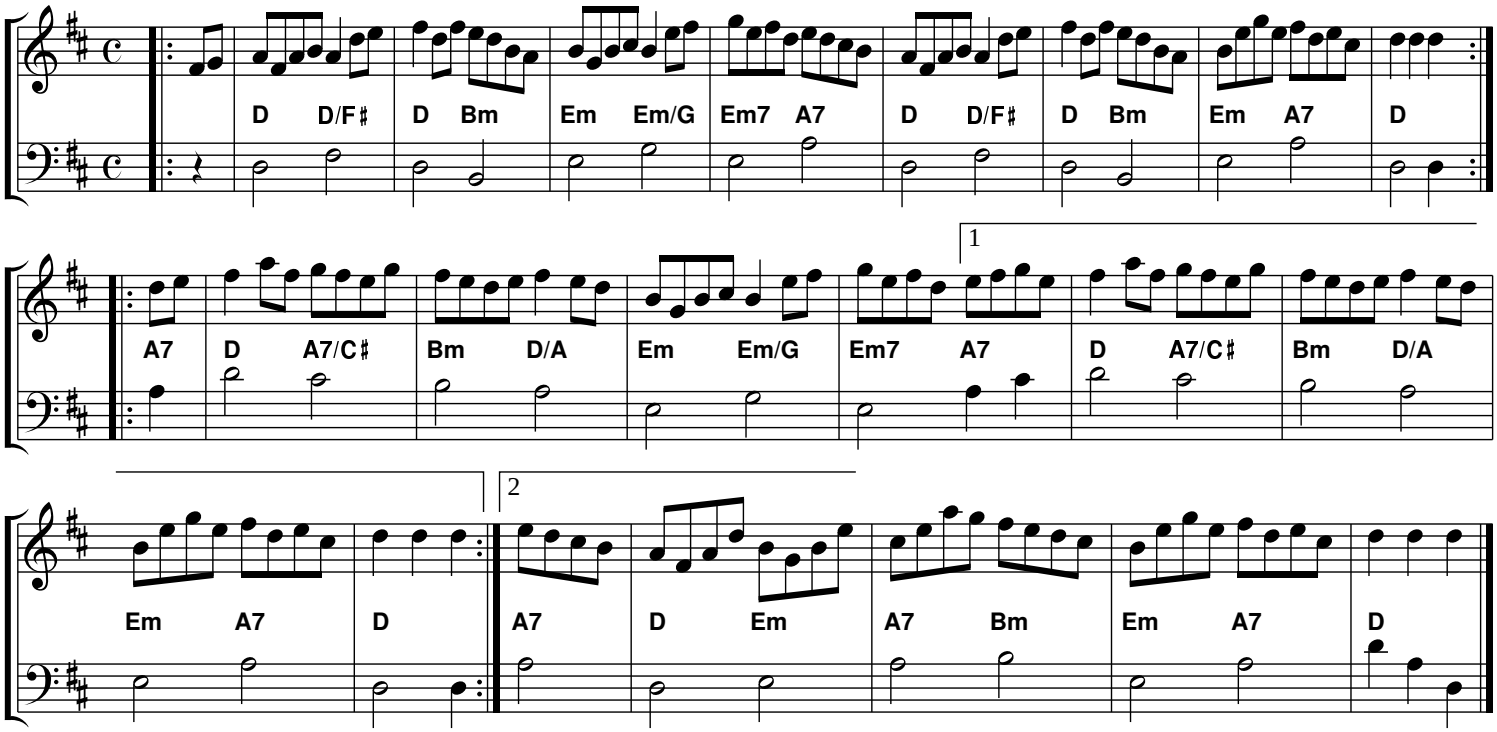
A REEL FOR THE INNES DANCERS

Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1998)



HELEN GREENWOOD'S REEL

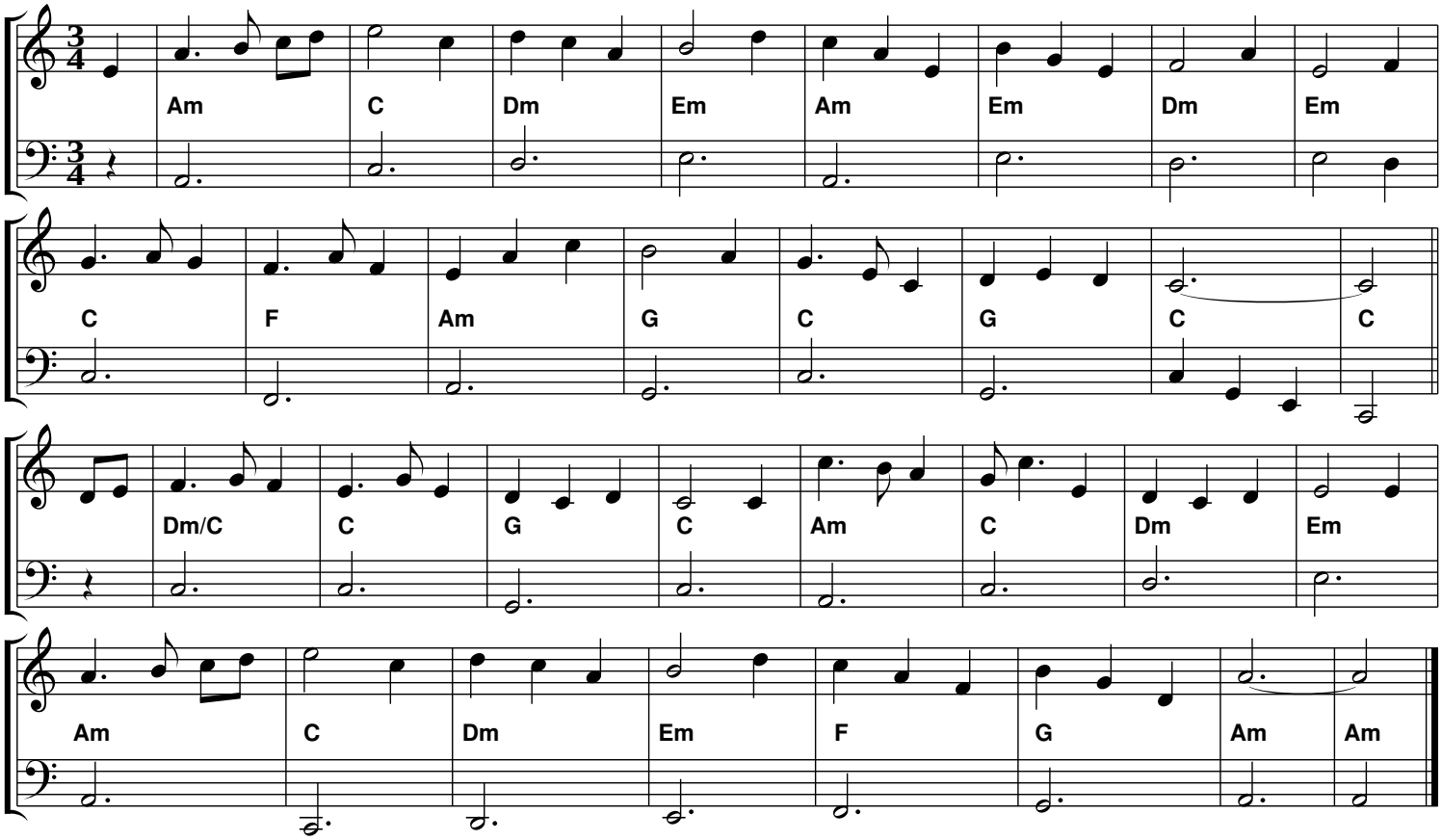
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2010)



The first tune on this page was originally intended for the Roy Goldring dance "The Innes Dancers Reel", devised for the SCD Club of the same name in New Zealand. Unfortunately, I never sent the tune to him before he published the dance. However, the group do like the tune, so I've provided them a copy to use as a support tune to the one published with the dance. The lady who informed me that they like the tune is Helen Greenwood (who also devised the dance "Best Set In The Hall", which was published in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Book 46). So when I sent Helen a copy of the first tune, I included the second tune as a thank you.

THE PARTING (Waltz)

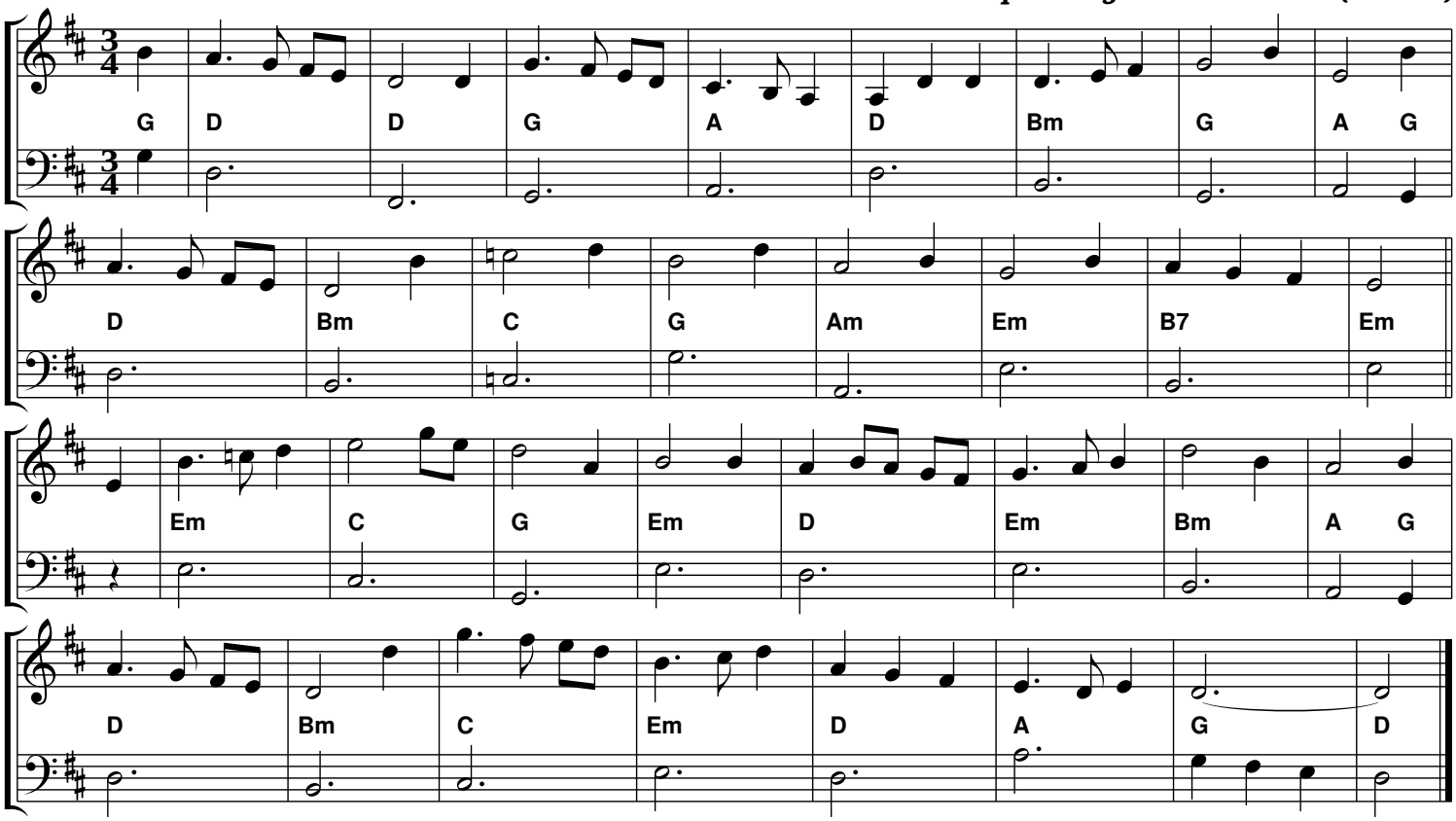
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1981)



A valse triste for an ending.

ROSEMONT (Waltz)

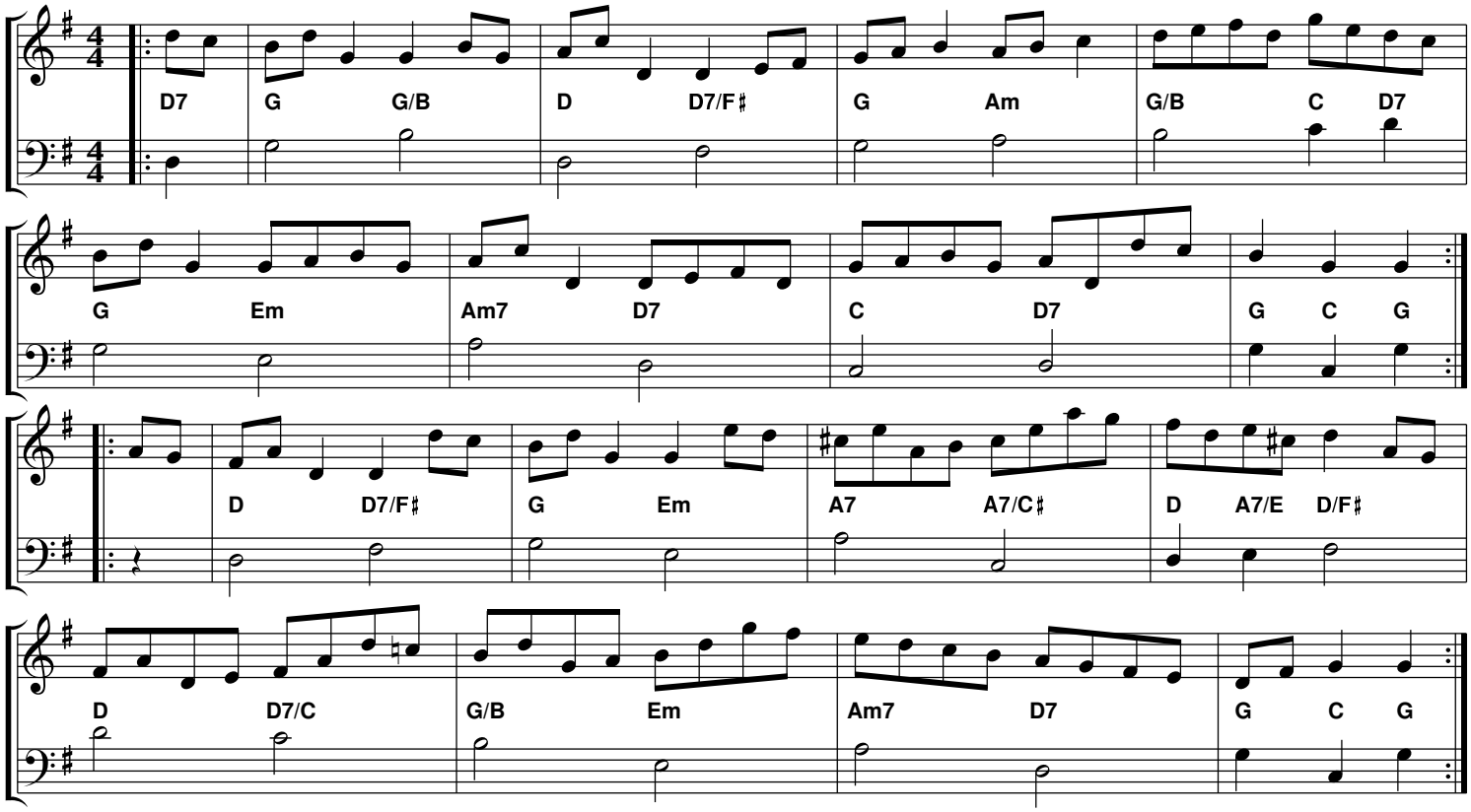
Composed by DUNCAN SMITH (© 1981)



A waltz for a new beginning. The title comes from combining the names of two Boston area towns − Melrose and Belmont.

DAVID & KIM SOUTH'S HORNPIPE

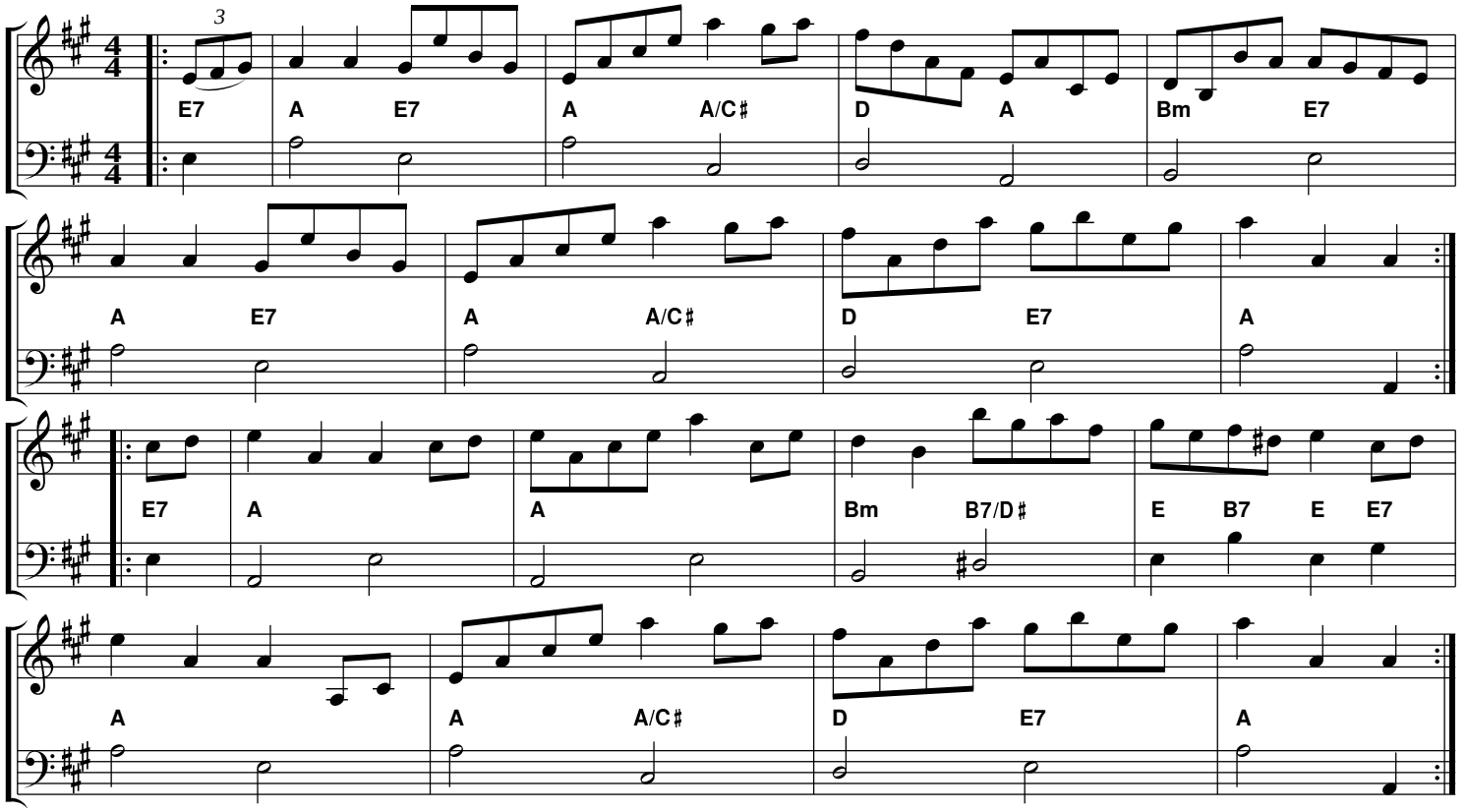
Composed by MATTHEW ROBERTSON (© 2009)



For David, the great Scottish dance accordionist and music sage (a great dance pianist too!) and his wife Kim, a lovely dancer and dance teacher.

CEILIDH'S HORNPIPE

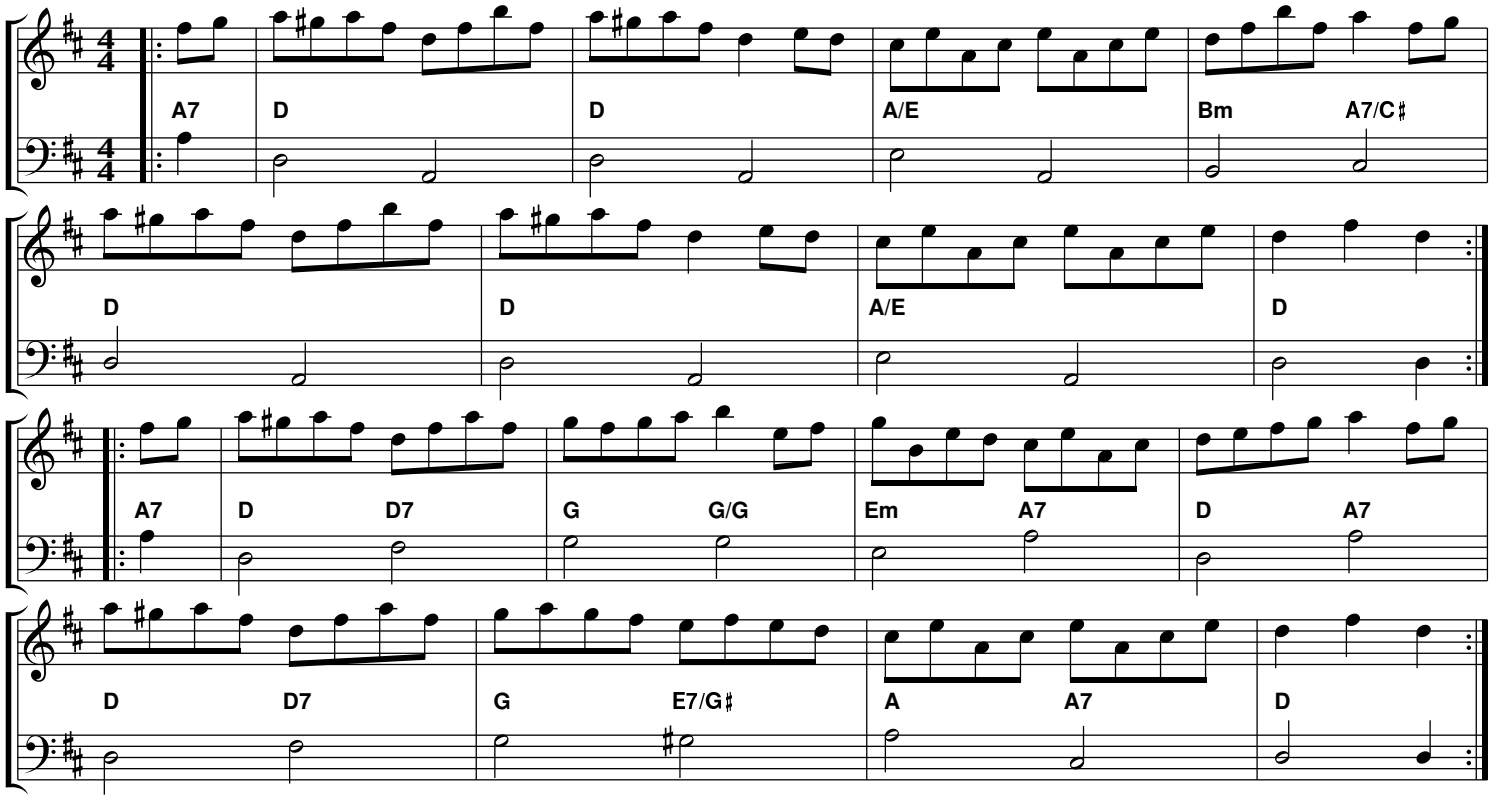
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 1996)



For my stepdaughter Ceilidh Isabel South. Originally published in 1996 under the title "Caylie's Hornpipe", Ceilidh officially changed the spelling of her name in 2009, hence the revised title.

LIAM SOUTH'S HORNPIPE

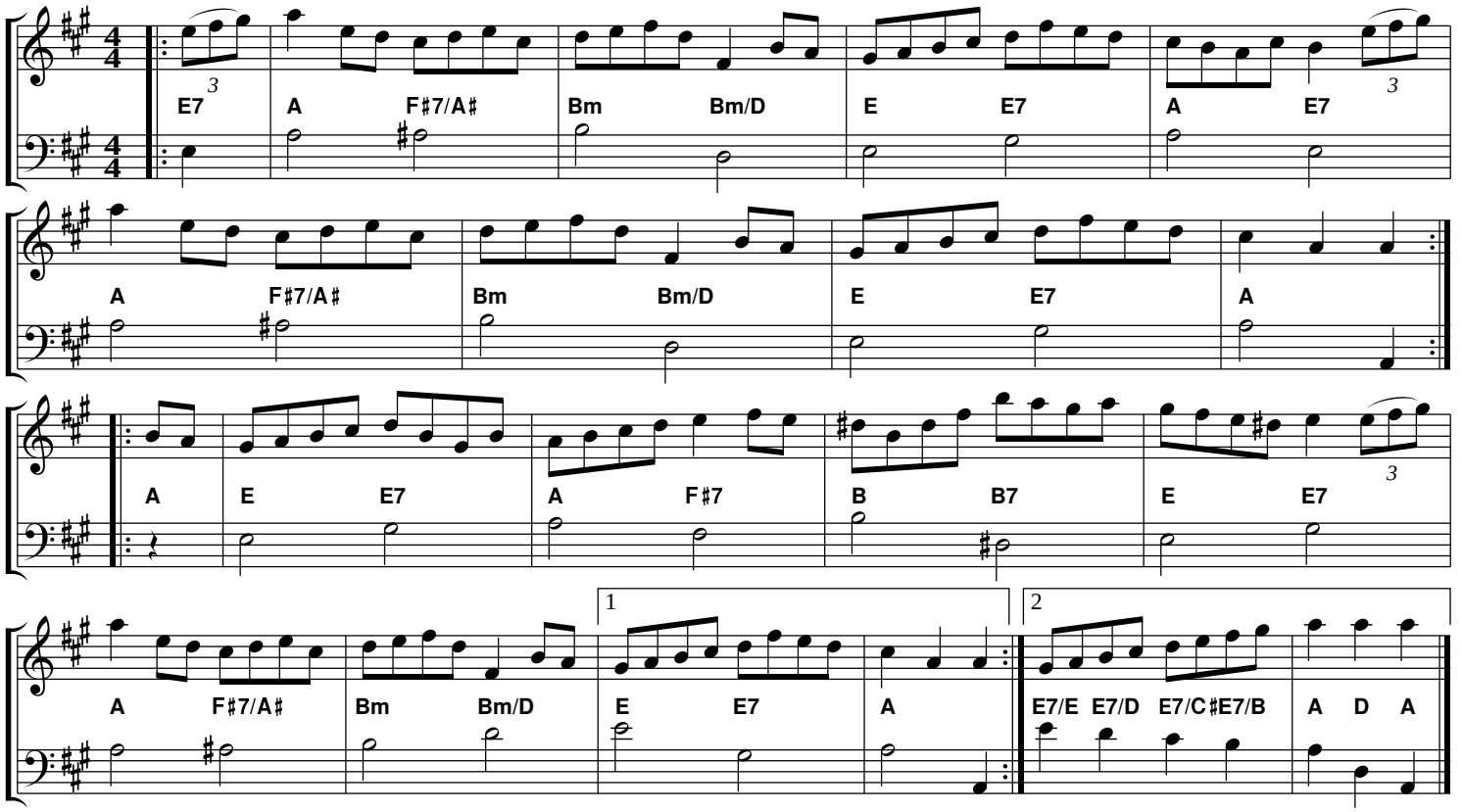
Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2010)



For my son Liam Arthur South.

MAIRI CATRIONA SOUTH (Hornpipe)

Composed by DAVID SOUTH (© 2003)



For my youngest daughter.

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