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Ceilidh Soc
Favourites

book
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About Ceilidh Soc Sessions

Welcome to the CeilidhSoc tunebook, which is also a quick guide to our weekly (during term time) folk music sessions.

CeilidhSoc's sessions are informal, friendly, and welcoming to all. We're run by and for students, but anyone can come along and join in. We play all kinds of folk music, and enjoy songs too. So what are our sessions like, and what wonders await you?

Can anyone play?

Yes! We'll gently encourage anyone to play and sing, and we'll do our best to play along with you. But it's also fine if you'd just like to sit and listen and soak up the atmosphere.

What styles of folk music do you play?

Although most of us play the folk music of the British Isles and Europe, we're open to all styles. Anything goes!

What if I'm new to folk music? Can I learn?

Everyone can learn. Though our sessions don't focus on formal teaching, we do help each other learn new tunes. We organise separate workshops for tune break-downs and slow practice (details on our website), and we provide PDF tune-books like this one, and links to other sources. We learn the most by listening to others and developing the ability to pick things up by ear. Folk music is more than just the notes. Like learning a language, it just needs time.

How should I work through the tunes in this book?

Any way you find fun! We always play some tunes from this book at sessions, so learning any of these would be a great start. We've grouped the tunes by page into those that flow well into each other, and we'll often play them in these groupings at the session. You could learn them like this, or singly, or mix them up. It also needs to be emphasised that folk music is more than just the notes. The notes here are stepping off points. Different musicians and communities phrase things a little differently. Be aware of this, and aim to be flexible when playing with others. You'll find varying performances of most of these tunes on YouTube. True of all music, but especially of folk: listen and learn from others as much as you can, and you'll find your own voice. This music belongs to us, and that includes **you** now ♥

Where are the CeilidhSoc Sessions?

They're every Wednesday evening during term time, at The Doctor's Orders Pub, Glossop Road. They start at 8pm, and go on till around 10:30pm.

What musical instruments are OK?

Pretty much anything goes, from tin whistles to double-basses. Please don't bring amplification unless your instrument is super-quiet. Very loud instruments like the Great Highland Bagpipes are probably not a great idea. Percussion is cool, but bear in mind that we don't really need more than one or two people percussing at any one time. All just common sense stuff, really.

Session Etiquete

Here are some top tips to make sure everyone feels welcome, and to help us keep our sessions fun and friendly.

We all make mistakes. You don't have to be able to play anything perfectly, so take heart and give it your best shot! Often we find others know the tune and help us keep going. Much better to try and slip up than not share that awesome tune at all.

Do feel free to record audio on your phone. This is a great way to learn by ear at your own speed later.

Don't play too fast. This can kill the soul of a tune, as well as making it difficult for people to learn and feel welcome. Play with feeling, not fury!

Repeat tunes a decent number of times. It helps people pick it up, and it also allows for some variation and dynamics to happen, which is 80% of the fun!

Share tune names. Try to tell people the names of the tunes you've played if you know them.

Tell people the key you're playing in. This is super important. It helps people join in, and begin to learn by ear.

Don't hog the floor. If you're on a roll, and remembering lots of tunes, please avoid leading multiple tunes in a row. Make space for others too.

For more information:

www.ceilidhsoc.org

The Blackthorn Stick

Jig

Trad (Ireland)

Musical score for 'The Blackthorn Stick' in G major, 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system starts with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, G, C, G, Am, G, D7, Em, D7 in the first staff; G, Am, G/B, C, G/D, D7, G in the second staff. The second system starts with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, G, G, G, Em, Am, D7 in the third staff; G, Am, G/B, C, G/D, D7, G in the fourth staff.

Out on the Ocean

Jig

Trad (Ireland)

Musical score for 'Out on the Ocean' in G major, 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first system starts with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, G, D, G, D, G in the first staff; D, G, D, G, G in the second staff. The second system starts with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the notes: Em, D, G in the third staff; C, G, D, G, G in the fourth staff. The second system includes first and second endings for the final two staves.

Drummond Castle

Jig

Trad (Scotland)



Musical score for "Drummond Castle" in 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes.

System 1:
Staff 1: A, Am, Am, G, C, G
Staff 2: Am, Am, G, C, G, Em, Am

System 2:
Staff 3: B, C, G, Am, G
Staff 4: C/Am, G, F, C, G, Em, Am

The Stool of Repentance

Jig

attr. Niel Gow (Scotland)



Musical score for "The Stool of Repentance" in 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. The key signature is two sharps (D major), and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes.

System 1:
Staff 1: A, A, A, D, A, Bm7, E7
Staff 2: A, A, D, A, Bm, E7

System 2:
Staff 3: B, A, A, Bm, Bm, E7
Staff 4: A, A, D, A, Bm, E7

King of the Fairies

Hornpipe

Trad (England)

Musical score for 'King of the Fairies' in 4/4 time, featuring six staves of music with various chords and a repeat sign at the end.

Chords: A, Em, Em, B7, Em, D, Em, C, G, Em, D, Em, B, Em, Em, Bm, Bm, Em, Em, Em, Bm, Em, Em, D, G, D, G, D, G, D, Em, Em, B7, Em, D, Em.

The Sportsmans Hornpipe

Hornpipe

Trad (England)

Musical score for 'The Sportsmans Hornpipe' in 4/4 time, featuring four staves of music with first and second endings and a triplet.

First ending: 1, 2

Triplet: 3

Sí Beag Sí Mór

Waltz

attr. O'Carolan (Ireland)

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of four systems of two staves each. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The chords are indicated above the notes. The first system has chords: D, Bm, G, A, D, G, A7, D, Bm. The second system has chords: G, D/A, Bm, Bm, G, A7, D, D. The third system has chords: D, A7, G, D, A7, D, D, A. The fourth system has chords: F#m, B, G, A7, G, A7, D, followed by a first ending (1 D) and a second ending (2). The score includes repeat signs and first/second ending brackets.

Egan's Polka

Polka

Trad (Ireland)

Musical score for Egan's Polka, 2/4 time, G major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first five measures with chords D, Bm, G, A7, and D. The second staff contains measures 6-7 with chords G, Em, A7, D, followed by a repeat sign and measures 8-9 with chords D and Bm. The third staff contains measures 10-13 with chords G, A7, D, Bm, G, Em, A7, and D.

Breeches Full of Stitches

Polka

Trad (Ireland)

Musical score for Breeches Full of Stitches, 2/4 time, G major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first five measures with chords G, Am, D7, G, Am, C, and G. The second staff contains measures 6-7 with chords Am, D7, G, C, Am, D, G, Am, and D7. The third staff contains measures 8-11 with chords G, Am, C, G, Am, D7, C, Em, Am, and D.

Battered Hake

Polka

Colin Cotter

Musical score for Battered Hake, 2/4 time, G major. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first five measures. The second staff contains measures 6-7. The third staff contains measures 8-11.

Rakes of Kildare

Jig

Trad (Ireland)

Musical score for 'Rakes of Kildare' in 6/8 time, key of D major. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature change to D major. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, Am, Am, G, G. The second staff continues with Am, Am, G, Am, F. The third staff starts with a section labeled 'B' and contains Am, Am, G, G. The fourth staff contains Am, Am, G, G. The fifth staff contains F, F, G, Am, F.

Morrison's Jig

Jig

Trad, from James Morrison via Tom Carmondy (Ireland)

Musical score for 'Morrison's Jig' in 6/8 time, key of D major. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature change to D major. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, Em, D, Em, D. The second staff continues with Em, D, Em, D. The third staff starts with a section labeled 'B' and contains Em. The fourth staff contains a first ending with chords G, D, Em, G, D, C, D. The fifth staff contains a second ending with chords D, G, D, G, Bm, C, D.

Seanamhac Tube Station

Jig

John Carty (Sligo, Ireland)

Musical score for 'Seanamhac Tube Station' in G minor, 6/8 time. The score consists of two systems, A and B. System A has two staves. The first staff contains the first two measures of system A, with chords Gm and F. The second staff contains the next two measures, with chords Gm and F, and includes first and second endings. System B has three staves. The first staff contains the first two measures of system B, with chords Gm and F. The second staff contains the next two measures, with chords Gm, F, G, and F, and includes a first ending. The third staff contains the final two measures of system B, with chords Gm and F, and includes a second ending.

Inver Bank

Jig

Patrick Davey (Ireland)

Musical score for 'Inver Bank' in D major, 6/8 time. The score consists of two systems, A and B. System A has two staves. The first staff contains the first two measures of system A. The second staff contains the next two measures, ending with a double bar line and repeat sign. System B has three staves. The first staff contains the first two measures of system B. The second staff contains the next two measures, with first and second endings. The third staff contains the final two measures of system B, ending with a double bar line and repeat sign.

McGoldrick's Jig

Jig

Michael McGoldrick (Manchester, England)

Musical score for 'McGoldrick's Jig' in D major, 6/8 time. The score consists of two systems. The first system has two staves. The first staff contains the first two measures. The second staff contains the next two measures, with first and second endings. The second system has two staves. The first staff contains the first two measures, with first and second endings. The second staff contains the final two measures, with first and second endings.

Willafjord

Trad (Shetland)

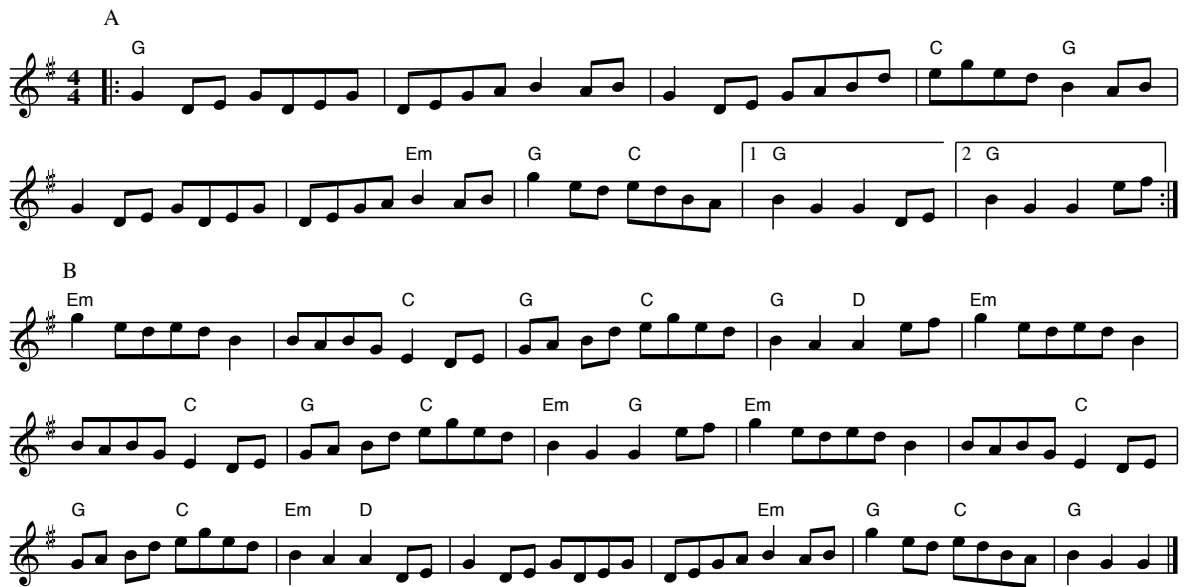


Musical score for Willafjord, a 4/4 time signature piece. The score consists of four staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, D, Em, A7, D, G, A7, D, Em, A7, D, Em, A7, D.

Spootiskerry

reel

Ian Burns (Tingwall, Shetland)

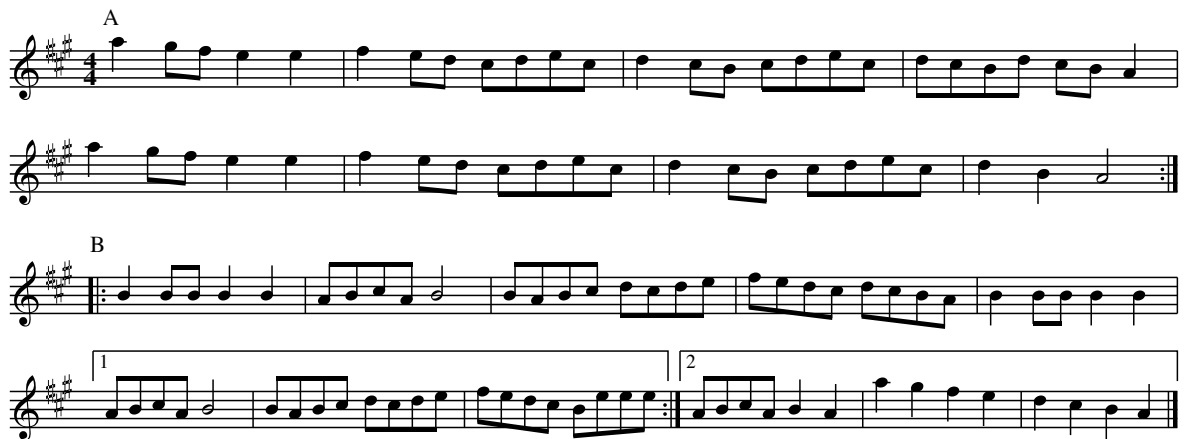


Musical score for Spootiskerry, a 4/4 time signature reel. The score consists of five staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, G, C, G, Em, G, C, G, B, Em, C, G, C, G, D, Em, C, G, Em, G, Em, C, G, C, Em, D, Em, G, C, G.

Holtwood Reel

Reel

Jess Arrowsmith (Sheffield, England)



Musical score for Holtwood Reel, a 4/4 time signature reel. The score consists of three staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, B, 1, 2.

Slängpolska från Vrigstad

Slängpolska

Småland, Sweden

Three staves of musical notation for the piece 'Slängpolska från Vrigstad'. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second and third staves continue the melody with similar rhythmic patterns.

Slängpolska efter Byss-Calle

Carl Ersson Bössa (Uppland, Sweden)

Three staves of musical notation for 'Slängpolska efter Byss-Calle'. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. It includes guitar chords: G, D7, G, C, G, Am, D7, G, D7, G, C, D7, G, C, G, Am, D7, G. There are also first and second endings marked with '1,3' and '2,4'.

Eklundapolska #3

Viksta-Lasse

Four staves of musical notation for 'Eklundapolska #3'. The music is in 3/4 time and G major. The notation features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords indicated by lower notes in the bass line.

Lower notes in chords are optional double-stopping for fiddlers

From Night Till Morn

Reel

Trad (England)

A

B

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the first piece, 'From Night Till Morn'. It is a reel in 4/4 time, written in G major (one sharp). Section A consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains eight measures. The second staff continues the melody and includes two first endings, each marked with a '1' and a '2'. Section B also consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains eight measures. The second staff continues the melody and includes two first endings, each marked with a '1' and a '2'.

Frank's

Reel

John McCusker (Scotland)

A

B

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the second piece, 'Frank's'. It is a reel in 4/4 time, written in D major (two sharps). Section A consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains eight measures. The second staff continues the melody and includes two first endings, each marked with a '1' and a '2'. The first ending has a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3'. Section B consists of four staves of music. The first two staves begin with a repeat sign and contain eight measures each. The last two staves continue the melody and end with a final double bar line.

Salmon Tails

Polka

Trad (Northumberland, England)

Musical score for 'Salmon Tails' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first eight measures, with chords G, G, D, C, D, G, G, D7, G. The second staff contains the next eight measures, with chords G, C, G, D, C, D, G, C. The third staff contains the final eight measures, with chords G, D7, G, G, D7, G, G, G. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Jamie Allen

Reel

attr. Jamie Allen (Northumberland, England)

Musical score for 'Jamie Allen' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains the first eight measures, with chords G, Em, Am, D7, G, (C), G, D7, G. The second staff contains the next eight measures, with chords G, Em, Am, D7, G(C), C, G, D7, G. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Flatworld

Waltz

Andy Cutting

Bm G Em F#m

Bm G A 1 Bm 2 Bm

Bm G A F#m

G Em 1 F#m 2 A Bm

New Princess Royal

England

Musical score for 'New Princess Royal' in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat major), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The second staff continues the melody with some chromaticism. The third staff features a repeat sign and a melodic line with a slur. The fourth and fifth staves complete the piece with a final cadence.

Ironlegs

South Yorkshire, England

Musical score for 'Ironlegs' in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The second staff continues the melody with some chromaticism and includes first and second endings. The third staff features a repeat sign and a melodic line with a slur. The fourth staff completes the piece with a final cadence and includes first and second endings.

Schottish à Virmoux

Schottische

Central France

Musical score for Schottish à Virmoux, a Schottische in 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are the main melody, and the last two are the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, A, D, G, D, A, D, G, D, A, D.

Schottish Urbaine

Schottische

Grégory Jolivet (Central France)

Musical score for Schottish Urbaine, a Schottische in 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are the main melody, and the last two are the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.