Paul Hardy’s Basic Tunebook 2020

Introduction

This Basic Tunebook contains a subset of the more commonly played and simpler tunes from Paul Hardy’s Session Tunebook. Both tune books contain tunes that I have learned to play on my English concertina, that are played at folk music sessions: particularly around Cambridge (England) and Redlands (California), and at some UK concertina gatherings like those at Kilve in Somerset. They should also be playable on other folk melody instruments like fiddle, whistle, flute, or dulcimer.

Most are traditional tunes from the British Isles, including many English, Irish, and Scottish dance tunes, but others are an eclectic mix of session favourites. Many have been learned by ear or handouts from various sessions in the UK and US, while others have been adapted from Internet resources, in abc, midi or visual score formats. All are believed free of current copyright (unless noted explicitly), or else appear to have been placed in the public domain as part of the ongoing live folk music tradition. Please let me know if you are the owner of any that are under access restrictions and I’ll remove them.

I have tried to present simple versions of most tunes, without much decoration and interpretation, so add your own triplets, grace notes and variations. I have included guitar chords, sometimes refined from computer-generated ones - use these as guidance, not definitive! Tunes in 4/4 time that have the rhythm indication “Hornpipe” should usually be ‘swung’ - lengthen the first and shorten the second in every pair of quavers - as in “Thursday”. Elsewhere these are sometimes written as ‘dotted quaver, semiquaver’, but that ratio of 3:1 seems too high - perhaps try for around 2:1.

This tunebook has been prepared using the abcm2ps software, with help from abc2midi, abcmus, Melody Assistant, ABCexplorer, and EasyABC. A big thank you goes to those creative and dedicated people who give their time to create and maintain low-cost or free and open source software for abc music editing and output.

Thanks also go to Greenshoots (www.greenshootsmusic.org.uk) for the slow sessions near Cambridge in England that let me learn many of these tunes, and then refined them (with special thanks to the Brind family for chord revisions); to the Chiltinas concertina group near Bedford and the WCCP Kilve weekends in Somerset that gave me concertina technique and playing confidence; the Ceili House Band in Redlands in California that opened my ears to the range of Irish music; the celtic jam sessions at Green Valley Lake in the nearby San Bernadino Mountains that broadened my repertoire, and to the sessions near my home village of Comberton that carry folk music forward to the next generation.

The current version of this and the full session tunebook, in ABC and in PDF forms, is downloadable from Paul’s web site at www.paulhardy.net, or you can order there a printed copy.

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Original version of July 2004, this version of 17 September 2020.
Polka
J = 160

Davy Davy Knick Knack
Trad.
England

Denis Murphy’s Polka
Dennis Murphy’s Polka
Trad.
Ireland

Jig
J = 110

Dingle Regatta
Trad.
Ireland
Dorset Four Hand Reel

G C G D G C G D7 G

C G D G C G D7 G

G C G D7 G C D7 G

G C G D7 G C D7 G

Polka

Egan’s Polka

D G Em A7 D G Em A7 D

D Bm G Em A7 D Bm G Em A7 D

Waltz

Eric’s Waltz

G Bm C D G Em A7 D G D G

C D G Em Am D G Bm

C D G Em Am D G D G

Reel

The Fairy Dance

G D G C D G

G C D7 G Em Am

1 D7 G 2 D7 G
Hornpipe
J = 130

Harvest Home
Cork Hornpipe
Trad.
Ireland

Reel
J = 90

Horse’s Brawl
Branle des Chevaux
From Arbeau, Orchesographie, 1689
France

Jig
J = 120

Hunt the Squirrel
Trad.
England, Sussex
Jig
J = 100

The Irish Washerwoman
Trad.
England, then Ireland

Reel
J = 180

Jamaica
Trad. Playford 1665
England

Reel
J = 200

Jimmy Allen
Jamie Allen
Trad.
England, Northumberland

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Michael Turner’s Waltz
Mozart KV 536 #2 1788
Germany, England

G D7 G C G D7 G D7 G D7 G

Monk’s March
General Monck’s March
Trad. (Monck marched in 1660)
England

G D7 G D7 G C G

Mucking Out the Byre
Muckin’ o’ Geordie’s Byre
Trad.
Scotland, Hebrides

D A7 D G

Em D A7 D G

D A7 D
**Planxty Irwin**  
*Colonel John Irwin*  
*Turlough O'Carolan (1713)*  
*Ireland*

**Planxty Fanny Power**  
*Fanny Poer*  
*Turlough O'Carolan (1732)*  
*Ireland*

**Portsmouth**  
*Trad. Playford 1709*  
*England*
March
J = 120

Princess Royal
Miss MacDermott
Turlough O’Carolan (1670-1738)
Ireland

Em Am Em D Em
C Am C Em D
Em D Em Am Em Am
DB m E m D E m

Polka
J = 210

The Rakes Of Mallow
Trad.
Ireland

G C D D7 G Am D7 G
GD G A m D 7 G

Hornpipe
J = 120

The Rights of Man
Trad.
Ireland

Em D
Em Bm7 Em
Em D
Em Bm7 Em

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The Rose Tree

\[ D \quad D7 \quad Em \quad A7 \quad D \quad A7 \quad D \]

Sally Gardens Reel

\[ G \quad Em \quad Bm \quad G \quad Em \quad Am \quad C \]

Salmon Tails up the Water

\[ G \quad C \quad G \quad D \quad C \quad D \quad G \]

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Seven Stars
The Moon And Seven Stars
Trad. 
England

Jig
J= 90

Shepherd's Hey
Trad. Morris Dance
England

Waltz
W= 100

Si Bheag Si Mhor
Sheebeg and Sheemore
Turlough O'Carolan, 1691
Ireland
The Trumpet Hornpipe
Captain Pugwash
Trad. England

Hornpipe
J = 130

Uncle Bernard’s
Trad. England

Waltz
J = 130

March
J = 100

Winster Gallop
Trad. England

Polka
J = 100

Westerling Home
Trasna na dTonnta
Trad. Words Hugh Roberton (1874-1952) Scotland

March
J = 100

Winster Gallop
Trad. England

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