

Fisher's Hornpipe

Musical score for "Fisher's Hornpipe" in D major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is written in eighth notes. Above the first staff are the chords: D, G, D, G, D, G, D, A7. The second staff continues the melody with chords: D, G, D, G, A7, D. The third staff has chords: A7, D, A, E7, A. The fourth staff has chords: G, D, A7, D. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

History

James A. Fishar published this tune in England in 1780, and it has been an American favorite since the late 18th century. Ralph Page found this tune in thirteen Revolutionary War era dance manuscripts, so it must have been very popular. It was played for dances on the Oregon Trail and in pioneer communities, including at the 1862 wedding of Henry Van Asselt and Catherine Elizabeth Jane Maple near Seattle.



"A Cotillion Party of Thirty-Two Persons Dancing on the Stump of the Mammoth Tree." Wood Engraving from "Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California" by J. M. Hutchings, 1862