

Quicksteps

Examples of quicksteps can be found peppered throughout many collections of bagpipe music in the 19th century. They are usually presented in a 2/4 time signature, but occasionally also appear in common time (C) and occasionally 6/8. During the second half of the 19th century, quicksteps were absorbed into the piper's repertory as competition style marches, and during the 20th century the embellishments used in these melodies became increasingly complex resulting in a decrease in tempo and functionality.

Musical examples: *Abercairney Highlanders, The MacDonald's March, Highland Laddie*

139. The Abercairney Highlanders

March
Arr. Barry Shears

The main musical score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/4 time signature. The subsequent nine staves are in bass clef. The music is a march, characterized by a steady, rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The melody is primarily in the upper register of the staves, with a strong emphasis on the first and third beats of each measure. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Variation played after B part, on repeat of tune

The variation consists of two staves of music. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps and a 2/4 time signature. The second staff is in bass clef. The variation follows the same rhythmic and melodic patterns as the main score, providing a different harmonic texture. It also concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

in the College
MacArthur.

The name for this
is titled traditional
(r 1).

See the sources for
it slower, closer
to march.

218. Highland Laddie

Quickstep
Arr. Barry Shears

MacDonald's March

traditional, Scottish

During the '70s and '80s this melody was the theme music for a CBC Sydney weekly radio show, *Island Echoes*. Cape Breton fiddlers often play it in reel time — lively enough to be danced.