

Backblocks Music

It was hoped that a catchy but obscure name like *Backblocks* could do for Australian folk music what *Bluegrass* did for American folk.

Tunes arranged by David Johnson, Bob Bolton and Anne Pidcock 1984 - 1993

Backblocks Aims

To study and promote Australian traditional music and styles of playing.

To play (practise and perform) traditional Australian music on historically appropriate instruments in a style sympathetic to its social history.

To encourage other performers to play the music by joining in on practice nights, listening to live and recorded performances.

To encourage skills of aural transfer of music style and tunes.

To locate and sympathetically arrange hitherto unplayed source material and balance the over-reliance by contemporary bush bands on published tunes from related, but foreign, traditions.

To present this material as a performing group with the traditional emphasis on firm rhythmic music for social dancing.

To establish a library of taped performances from archive collections as well as appropriate contemporary sources; to enable interested performers to hear and emulate the sound and nuances of traditional artists.

Bill Gilbert's First Set Tune

played for "the square dance" by Bill on B/C and C/C# accordions and recorded by John Meredith

Musical score for Bill Gilbert's First Set Tune, featuring four staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The score includes various chords such as G, D7, C, Em, and Am, and includes first and second endings.

Herb's Jig

Collected from Herb Gimbert at the Bush Music Club. Herb played tin whistle and single row button accordion.

Musical score for Herb's Jig, featuring four staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The score includes various chords such as G, D7, and C, and includes first and second endings.

Gulgong Set Tune

collected from Sally Sloane by John Meredith

Musical score for Gulgong Set Tune, featuring four staves of music in D major and 2/4 time. The score includes various chords such as D, A7, and D, and includes first and second endings.

Mick Pilley's Varsovienna

learnt by Mick from his father and recorded by John Meredith

Musical score for Mick Pilley's Varsovienna, featuring six staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The score includes various chords (G, D7, C, Am) and triplets. A first and second ending are marked in the second staff.

Joe Yate's Schottische

As learnt from the playing of Chris Sullivan and Mark Rummery c1985. They learnt it from Joe Yates from Gulgong.

Musical score for Joe Yate's Schottische, featuring six staves of music in G major and 2/4 time. The score includes various chords (G, D7, C, Am, Em) and triplets.

George Large's First Step Dance

collected from Orley Benson by John Meredith

Musical score for George Large's First Step Dance, 2/4 time signature. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are C, G7, C, F G7, C, G7. The second staff continues with notes: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Chords above are C, G7, C, F G7, C, G7, C. The third staff has notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are C, F G7, C, F G7, C, G7. The fourth staff has notes: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Chords above are C, G7, C, F G7, C, G7, C. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

George Large's Second Step Dance

collected from Orley Benson by John Meredith

Musical score for George Large's Second Step Dance, 2/4 time signature. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are C, F, C, G7. The second staff continues with notes: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Chords above are C, F, G7, C, F, C. The third staff has notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are G7, C, G7, F, C. The fourth staff has notes: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Chords above are F, C, Dm, G7, C, F, C. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Daisy Sutton's Set Tune

Musical score for Daisy Sutton's Set Tune, 2/4 time signature. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are G, D7, G. The second staff continues with notes: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Chords above are G, D7, G. The third staff has notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are G, D7. The fourth staff has notes: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Chords above are Am, D7, 1 G D7, 2 D7 G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Parnell and His Band

collected from Doddy Murphy by John Meredith

Musical score for Parnell and His Band, featuring four staves of music in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are primarily eighth and quarter notes. The chord progression is as follows:

- Staff 1: D, G, D, A7
- Staff 2: D, G, D, A7, D
- Staff 3: D, A7, A, D, A
- Staff 4: D, G, D, A7, D

Harry Schultz's Waltz

collected from Les Schultz by John Meredith; Les got it from his father Harry who probably learnt it from his Bavarian grandfather.

Musical score for Harry Schultz's Waltz, featuring four staves of music in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes include triplets. The chord progression is as follows:

- Staff 1: G, D7, G, D7, G, D7
- Staff 2: G, D7, G, Em, C, D7, G
- Staff 3: Em, C, G, D7, G
- Staff 4: Em, C, G, D7, G

The Whistled Schottische

Athritis stopped Rita Baker playing this tune for John Meredith so she whistled it instead.

Musical score for The Whistled Schottische, featuring four staves of music in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes include triplets. The chord progression is as follows:

- Staff 1: G, C, G, C, G, Am, D
- Staff 2: G, C, G, C, G, D7, G
- Staff 3: D, A, Em, D, A7, D
- Staff 4: D, A, Em, D, A7, D

Rita Baker's First Set Tune



Musical score for Rita Baker's First Set Tune, featuring six staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The score includes various chords such as G, D7, and C, and concludes with a repeat sign.

Bill McGlashan's Jig

learnt from Bill McGlashan by Harry McQueen and recorded and transcribed by Peter Ellis



Musical score for Bill McGlashan's Jig, featuring eight staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The score includes various chords such as G, D7, C, and Am, and concludes with a repeat sign and first/second endings.