Millers Basses
to the select
REELS & STRATHSPEYS
OF
SCOTLAND

Muller's Basses.

TWO HUNDRED

SELECT REELS & STRATHSPEYS OF SCOTLAND,

FOR THE FIRST TIME ARTISTICALLY AND HARMONIOUSLY ARRANGED

WITH NEW BASSES

FOR THE

PIANOFORTE, OR VIOLIN AND VIOLONCELLO;

AND

Dedicated to Scotland, his native land,

BY THE LATE

ROBERT MÜLLER,

Pianist to the King of Saxony, Duchess of Cambridge, and the Princess Mary;

Honorary Member of the Philharmonic and St Cecilia Academies, Rome; the Philharmonic Academy, Bologna;

The Harmonic Society, Stockholm; &c.

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EDITED BY C. W. MÜLLER, OF EDINBURGH.

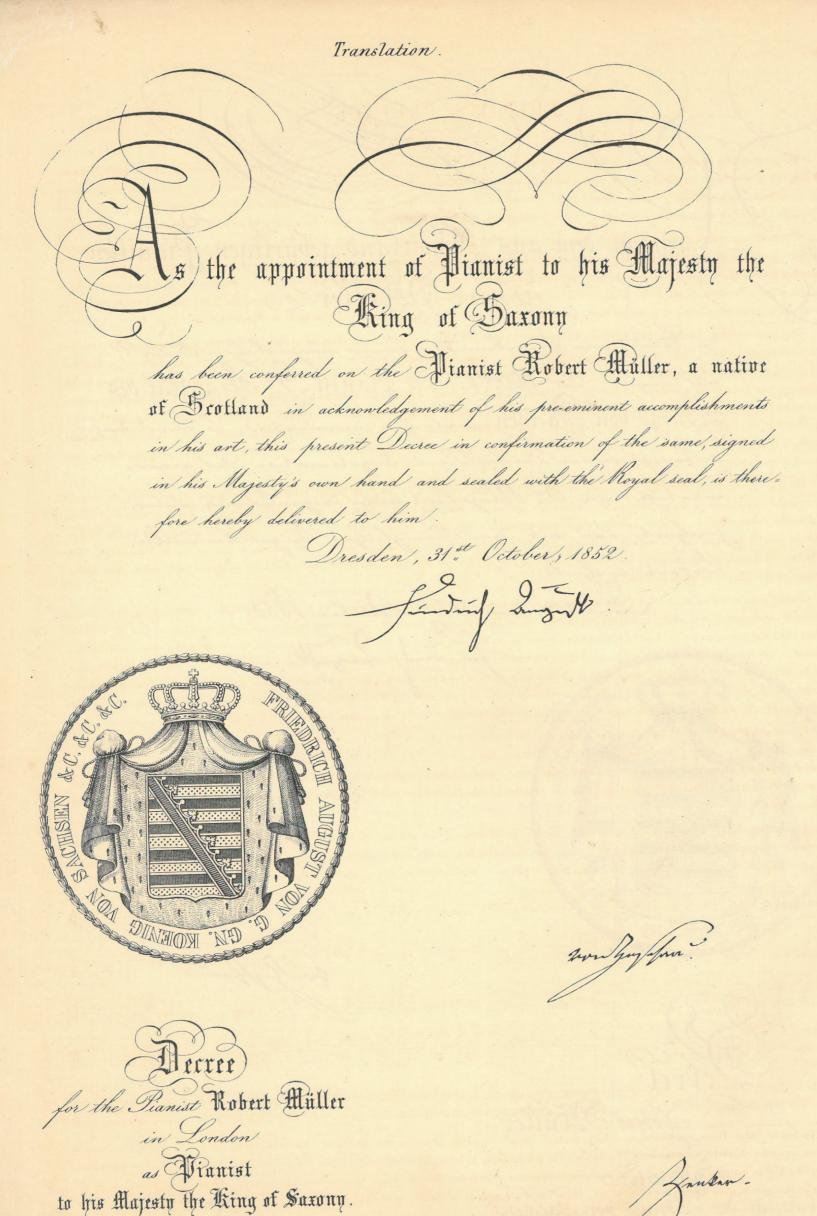
LONDON: ROBERT COCKS & CO., NEW BURLINGTON STREET,

BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

MUSIC PUBLISHERS TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA,
AND TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON III.

EDINBURGH: C. W. MÜLLER, 73, QUEEN STREET.

achdem dem aus Schottland gebürtigen Fianisten Lobert Alister in London, in Stundenming frium nongrighiljen Rung ?, lug Tungun, ins Thankur als Pianist Gr Hajestät des Dönigs von Bachten mulingen monden ift, so mint dans sfulbun gu fuinna inofallsfigur Engitimention sont guyan. manlion, son Dr. Majny loit Goily Trigangointry nutra Inbunt unshailt. mostum, om 31 fin Delobus 1852.



Schenck & M. Farlane, Lith, Edinburgh

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

In bringing the present collection of Reels and Strathspeys before the public, the Editor begs to state that his brother, the late ROBERT MÜLLER, in dedicating his Basses to Scotland, felt convinced that, when known, they would be appreciated by all his countrymen possessing musical taste and judgment, and that they would be played by all performers of Scottish Dance Music, in preference to any others hitherto published, but more especially by Violoncellists or Bass-players, as the accompaniments to this particular class of music have hitherto been of a most monotonous character.

For months previous to his death, which took place on the 28th of August last, he laboured at this work with untiring zeal, in the hope of placing it before the Public early in October. But since that period, circumstances arising from his sudden and unexpected decease, as well as the time and care necessary for the revision and correction of the manuscript and proofs, have unavoidably retarded the publication. It was also the Author's intention to have added a Treatise on the Rules of Musical Composition to this Collection; but from the unfinished state of the M.S., and the further delay that the arranging and completing of it would have occasioned, it has been thought advisable to lay it aside for the present.

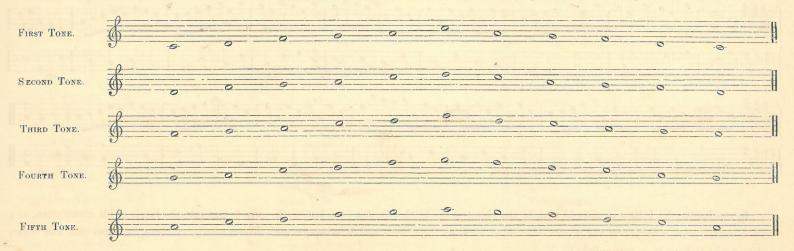
The cosmopolitan education, life, and varied talents of Robert Müller gave him many advantages over his Scottish predecessors and contemporaries, and peculiarly fitted him for writing such a work as this. As a native-born Scotsman, thoroughly acquainted with the character of Scottish Melody, as well as with the Violin,—on which only, when accompanied by the Violoncello, can Reels and Strathspeys be played to perfection,—he has often regretted to hear the senseless and generally discordant accompaniment of the latter instrument, which detracted from, if not entirely spoiled, the native beauty of the original melody. He therefore deemed it a labour of love to attempt—what had really never before been accomplished—the construction of artistic, but at the same time simple and melodious Basses to the heart-stirring strains of Scotland: such Basses or accompaniments, in short, as, with the original melodies, would form correct and pure harmony, and prove worthy, as he hoped, of being attached to, and handed down to posterity along with them.

He has endeavoured, from his knowledge of the art of music, acquired by long study and practice as a student and teacher in most of the capitals of Europe, to bring prominently before the public the beauties of the Scottish Reels and Strathspeys; and has furnished to the Violoncello player a simple, pleasing, and flowing accompaniment, easily learnt by any one who can play the scales, and even—should the Violoncellist be unable to read music—capable of being quickly acquired and committed to memory from hearing it played on the Pianoforte. The Melodies, with such accompaniments, the Author hoped, would so improve the taste and gratify the ear of the performer as to induce him henceforth to eschew his old extempore Bass.

To the Pianist—who has hitherto been accustomed to accompany these melodies with tone-masses of inadmissable progressions, such as thirds, fifths, and octaves combined, rising or falling one degree—these Basses may at first sight appear meagre and not sufficiently loud. But let them be played until the pure harmonies shall have made an impression on the ear, and then the falsity of the one and the truth of the other will become apparent. However, in order to suit the taste of those who may prefer a more complicated Bass, additional small notes have been appended, which may be played or not ad libitum, in accordance with the taste or skill of the Pianist. But as simplicity was one of the objects of the present arrangement, it was the intention of the Author to recommend to the generality of Pianoforte players that the small notes should be left out, and single sounds only played with the left hand. In conformity with this intention the large notes only have been fingered.

It is generally supposed that such accompaniments as are found in the various Collections—containing progressions condemned by every master and school in Europe—form the essential characteristic of Scotch dance music. Is it not, however, more rational to suppose that the tunes were first collected, arranged as we find them, and published by itinerant village fiddlers or others, who, being ignorant of the very elements and grammar of music, could not arrange them any better; and that the Scottish people, having no choice, accepted of these crudities as the characteristics of their national music?

A great number of the melodies to the Scottish Lyrics, as well as the dance-tunes themselves, evidently originated from the pastoral pipe of the country, the scale of which consisted of five tones only, such, in fact, as are represented by the black keys of the Pianoforte, on which all the more ancient Scottish tunes in their primitive state may be played. When classified, the scale of the five tones would appear thus:—



To one of these Tones, considered as a Key, most of the old Scottish Melodies may be traced: the third being the one on which the greatest number appears to have been composed. The difficulty in pronouncing to which key many of the tunes belong, and in harmonizing them as belonging to any one key in particular, will hence be sufficiently apparent. In some few instances the Author has corrected a note here and there in the Melodies themselves according to the rules of art; there being a grammar in Melody as well as in Harmony.

As a short example of the manner in which Scottish tunes have hitherto been accompanied, as compared with the Author's, the first part of Loch Erroch Side—a well-known air, and beautiful when played either in slow or Strathspey time—is here given:—



The above is a specimen of the style of Bass we hear at balls and dances generally throughout Scotland; but although quite correct in point of harmony, no one would call it a melodious accompaniment.



The above, again, is the usual method of arranging the Bass for the Pianoforte. But it has the defect of the former example in being monotonous, whilst it detracts from the simple beauty of the melody by its loud tone-masses of harmony, which are often very difficult to play, if correctly harmonized.



Here the Bass is a melody in itself, and forms, as it were, a duet with the upper part, which it adorns by its subordinate and melodic character, being at the same time in pure and correct harmony with the upper part. In this latter style the Basses of the present collection of Reels and Strathspeys, which follow each other in succession as they are generally danced, have been constructed; while the Tunes themselves have been set in the appropriate keys for the Violin, and those in the same key kept together.

As another example of the Autnor's style of arrangement the following Reel is here added:-



In conclusion, the Editor would add that, as the object of his brother in this—his last work—was to put into the hands of his countrymen, at a very moderate price, a numerous and good Collection of their national Reels and Strathspeys, with Basses worthy of them, he hopes that this object will be found to have been accomplished.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX.

R-abbreviation for reel; S-abbreviation for strathspey.

An Index, classified according to Key and Page, will be found at the end of the Volume.

	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
Argyle Bowling Green, R page 40	Green grow the Rashes, O! R page 45	Mason's Apron, R page 9
Atholl Brose, s 32	Greig's Pipes,	Miller of Drone, s 6
Atholl House,	Hamilton of Wishaw, R 16	M
Auld Lang Syne, s 12	Haughs of Cromdale, s 44	Miss Ann Amelia Stuart,
Auld wife ayont the fire, R 50	Highlandman kissed his Mother, R 35	0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Ayrshire Lasses, s 35	Highland Laddie, s 11	
Back of the change house, R 29	Highland Whisky, s 8	D 1.05
Because he was a bonnie lad, R 1	Hint Dall T	D 1 1
Birks of Aberfeldy, R 55	TITLE TO A	On.
Bobbers of Brechin,	Handware	— Gibson,
	Honeymoon, R 30	— Lyle, s 14
	I'll gang nae mair to you toun, R 54	— Jessie Smith,
Bonnie Brier Bush, s 11	Isle of Skye, , R 17	— Johnston,
Bonnie Lass of Ballantrae, R 60	Jenny's Bawbee, 26	—— Robertson of Tullybelton, . s 19
Bonnytoun House, s 20	Jenny dang the Weaver, R 33	— Rose of Tirlogie, R 10
Braes of Auchtertyre, R 36	Jenny Nettles,	— Vearie Hay, R 19
Braes of Balquhither, s 57	John Cheap the Chapman, R 23	— Wedderburn, R 12
Braes of Bushby, s 24	Johnnie Pringle, s 46	Mr Baillie of Mellerston, s 43
Braes of Mar,	John Roy Stuart, s 54	Frank Lockhart, s 18
Braes of Tullymet, s 55	John Stewart,	Francis Sitwell, s 18
Brechin Castle, s 16	Keel Row, 8	- Lumsden, 62
Bridge of Ballater, s 19	Keep the country, bonnie lassie, R 5	— Ramsay Maule, s 44
Bridge of Bracklin, s 39	Lady Ann Hope,	Mrs Adie,
Bridge of Perth, R 3	Ann Stewart, s 21	Detail Car and
Caber-fae,		01:1:1
Cameronian Rant,		D 1 07
Cameron's got his wife again, s 33		— Drummond of Logicalmond, R 44
Captain Byng,	—— Caroline Montague, s 41 —— Charlotte Campbell, R 17	— Dundas of Arniston, R 40
Captain Keeler,		— Garden of Troup, s 56
	Charlotte Campbell (MacIntosh), \s 17	— Macdonald of Clanranald, R 42
	Charlotte Campbell (Nath. Gow), s 45	— Mackenzie, s 60
Cawdor Fair,	— Doune, s 56	— Macleod of Raasay, R
Charlie Stuart,	Elizabeth Lindsay, s 15	- Wright of Laton, s 43
Clanranald,	— Hamilton Dalrymple, s 25	Niel Gow, s 1
Clean pease strae, R 25		Niel Gow's Recovery, s 41
Clydesdale Lassies,	Lucy Ramsay, s 38	Niel Gow's wife, s 23
Colonel MacBain,	Loudon, s 35	Of a' the airts,
Comin' through the Rye, s 9	— Mackenzie of Coul, s 39	O'er Boggie wi' my love, R 38
Countess of Sutherland, R 20	— Madelina Sinclair, s 6	O'er the muir amang the heather, R 48
Coutie's Wedding, s 14	— Madelina Sinclair's Birthday, R 18	Perthshire Hunt, R 12
Daintie Davie, s 54	— Mary Ramsay, s 26	Perthshire Volunteers, s 4
Deil among the Tailors, R 9	Mary Stopford, R 29	Pretty Peg,
Delvin House,		T 1 1 1 1 1 1
Delvin Side, s 42	}	
Dinna think, bonnie lassie, s 31		TO 1 ATT 11 1
Don Side,	S. Hamilton, s 21	Reel of Tulloch, R 10
	Lasses of Stewarton, R 34	Rothiemurchus Rant, s 36
	Lassie wi' the yellow coatie, s 25	Royal Recovery, s 10
Duchess of Hamilton, s 50	} Lea Rig,	Roy's wife,
Duillater House,	Lennox's love to Blantyre, R 52	Sally Kelly,
Duke of Gordon's Birthday, s 48	Loch Earn (Tilt side), R 52	Sandy o'er the lea, R 31
Duke of Perth,	Loch Erroch side, s 37	Sir Charles Douglas, s 26
Dun's frolic,	Look before you, s 29	— David Hunter Blair, R 56
Duncan Davidson, s 34	Look behind you, R 30	— John Lockhart Ross, R 25
Dunse dings a',	Lord Alexander Gordon, s 7	Sleepy Maggie,
Earl of Dalkeith,	} Dalhousie, R 27	Speed the Plough, R 4
Earl of Eglinton,	Kelly, s 22	Stumpie, s 4
Earl of Home, s 61	Macdonald, R 47	Sweet Molly R 42
Earl of Lauderdale,	— Moira's Welcome to Scotland, . s 53	This is no my ain house, s 28
Earl of Loudon, s 62		700
Earl Marischal,	{ — Seaforth,	fm 1 .1 yyr 1
Fairy Dance,		
Fife Hunt, . :		
Fight about the Fireside, R 35		Torryburn,
Fill the stoup,	Major Molle,	Tullochgorum, s 52
	Marchioness of Huntly, s 8	Up an war them a', Willie, s 2
Flora Macdonald,	Marquis of Huntly, s 22	Welcome to your feet again, s 36
For a' that and a' that, s 29	——— of Huntiy's Farewell, s 2	Whigs of Fife,
Garey Cottage, s 58	of Huntly's Highland Fling, . s 27	Whistle o'er the lave o't, s 49
Garthland's, s 48	—— of Tullybardine, R 5	Willie was a wanton wag, s 32
Gillie Callum, R 11	Marry Ketty, s 49	
	/	

#### INDEX.

** R-ABBREVIATION FOR REEL; S-ABBREVIATION FOR STRATHSPEY

		* D-				Key. P	arra /			K	ey. Pa	ige
Because he was a bonnie lad, .	D	Key. Pa A major	(	Lady Ann Stewart,	s B	flat maj.		John Stewart,	8	C m	ajor 4	41
		do.	1		R		21		s	do		41
Niel Gow,		do.	1	Lady S. Hamilton,			21	Sweet Molly,	R	E mi	nor 4	12
		do.	2	Miss Dumbreck,			21	Delvin Side,	8	do	0. 4	42
Up an' waur them a', Willie, Timour the Tartar,	R	do.	2	Marquis of Huntly			1	Mrs Macdonald of Clanranald,	R	de	0. 4	42
		do.	2	The Bobbers of Brechin,			22		8	do	0. 4	43
Marquis of Huntly's Farewell, .		do.	3	Lord Kelly,			22	Flora Macdonald,	R	do	0. 4	43
Bridge of Perth,	R	do.	3	John Cheap the Chapman,			23	Mrs Wright of Laton,	8	do	0. 4	43
Lady Baird, Greig's Pipes,		do.	3	Niel Gow's wife,			23		R	do	0. 4	43
Perthshire Volunteers,	R	do.	4	Colonel MacBain,		do.	23	The Haughs of Cromdale, .	S	de	0. 4	44
	R	do.	4	The Braes of Bushby,			24	Mrs Drummond of Logicalmond,		do	6. 4	44
Speed the Plough,		do.	4	Miss Charteris,			24	Mr Ramsay Maule,		do	0. 4	44
	R	do.	5	Lady Hamilton Dalrymple,			25	Green grow the Rashes, O! .	R	do	o. 4	45
Marquis of Tullybardine,		do.	5		R		25		8	Gm	ajor 4	15
Lady Binning,	R	do.	5	Lassie wi' the yellow coatie,			)	Miss Johnston,	R	do	0. 4	45
		do.	6	Clean pease strae,			25	Lady Anne Hope,	S	do	0. 4	46
Lady Madelina Sinclair,	R	do.	6	Lady Mary Ramsay,			26	Through the Wood of Favie, .		de	0. 4	46
Mrs Macleod of Raasay,		do.	6	Jenny's Bawbee,			26	Johnnie Pringle,		de	0. 4	46
The Miller of Drone,	R	do.	7	Sir Charles Douglas,			26	Lord Macdonald,	R	de	0. 4	47
The High Road to Linton,		do.	7	The Braes of Mar,			26	Monymusk,	8	de	0. 4	47
	S R	do.	7			200	27	Duke of Perth,	R	de	0. 4	47
Fill the stoup,		do.	8	Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling,			27	Duke of Gordon's Birthday,	8	d	0. 4	48
The Marchioness of Huntly,	R	do.	8	Lord Dalhousie,			27	O'er the muir amang the heather,	R	d	0. 4	48
The Keel Row,		do.	8			do.	28	Garthland's,		de	0. 4	48
Highland Whisky,			9	Rachel Rae,	R		28	The Earl of Lauderdale,	R	de		49
The Deil among the Tailors,	R	do.	9	Pretty Peg,			28	Marry Ketty,		de	0. 4	19
Mrs Chisholm,		do.	9	This is no my ain house,		do.	28	Captain Byng,	R	de	0. 4	49
The Mason's Apron,	R	do.	9				29		8	d	0. 4	49
Comin' through the Rye,		do.	10		R	do.	29	Push about the jorum,	R			50
Miss Rose of Tirlogie,			10	For a' that, and a' that,		do.	29		8	d	o. £	50
The Royal Recovery,			10		R		29	The auld wife ayont the fire,		d	o. E	50
Reel of Tulloch,	R		11	Look before you,		do.	30	Don Side,		d	o. · !	51
The Bonnie Brier Bush,			11	Low down in the broom,	R	do.	30	Torryburn,	R	d	0. 1	51
Gillie Callum,			11			do.	30	Lord Seaforth,		d	o. l	52
Highland Laddie,	20		11	Look behind you,		do.	30	Loch Earn (Tilt side),	R	d	lo.	52
Dunse dings a',		-	12	Roy's wife,	R	do.	31	Tullochgorum,	8			52
OI W UIIC GILL ON,	8		12			do.	31	Lennox's love to Blantyre,			najor l	52
The Perthshire Hunt,			12	Dinna think, bonnie lassie,		do.	31	Lord Moira's welcome to Scotland,				53
Auld Lang Syne,			12	Sandy o'er the lea,		do.	32	Clydesdale Lassies,				53
Miss Wedderburn,		A minor				B minor		Daintie Davie,		Dm	inor	54
Miss Drummond of Perth,			13	10 00		D major		I'll gang nae mair to yon toun,			najor	
Major Molle,	R		13	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O	R	do.	33	,	S			54
	R		13			do.	33	The Birks of Abergeldie,	R	d	lo.	55
The Drummer,			14		R	do.	33	The Braes of Tullymet,				55
Coutie's Wedding,	S		14			do.	34	Lady Harriet Hope,	R			55
Jenny Nettles,	S		14			do.	34	Lady Doune,				56
112100 20-1	B		15		B			Sir David Hunter Blair,	R	đ	lo.	56
Donate annual		Bflatmaj.		Lady Loudon,	R	do.	35	}	s	ć	lo.	56
Hora zamana)	R	do.	15	Ayrshire Lasses,		do.	35	The Cameronian Rant,	R	d	lo.	57
Miss Gibson,	S	do.	15			do.	35	}	8	ć	lo.	57
	R	do.	16	The Highlandman kissed his Mother,	, R	do.	36	Earl Marischal,	R			58
		do.	16	Welcome to your feet again,		do.	36	Garey Cottage,	8	ć	do.	58
Diconni Carrer	R	do.	16.	The Braes of Auchtertyre,  Rothiemurchus Rant.	R	do.	36	The Whigs of Fife,	R	Ċ	do.	58
	S	do.	17	2000	R	do.	37	1	8			59
Lady Charlotte Campbell, Lady Charlotte Campbell,		do.	17	Duillater House,		do.	37	Atholl House,	R			59
	S	do.	17	The Fife Hunt,	R	do.	37		. 8			59
Mrs Adie, The Isle of Skye,		do.	17	Lady Lucy Ramsay,		do.	38	The Bonnie Lass of Ballantrae,	R		do.	60
Mr Francis Sitwell,		do.	18	O'er Boggie wi' my love,	R	do.	38	<b>)</b>	. s		do.	60
Lady Madelina Sinclair's Birthday		do.	18	Hilton Lodge,		do.	38	Sally Kelly,		Dr	ninor	60
		do.	18	Caber-fae,	R	do.	38		. 8		major	
	S R	do.	19	1	8	do.	39	The Earl of Dalkeith,	R		do.	61
		do.	19	Delvin House,	R		39	The Earl of Home,	. 8		do.	61
Miss Robertson of Tullybelton,		do.	19	Lady Mackenzie of Coul,		-	39	Through the muir she ran,	R		do.	61
Miss Vearie Hay,	S	do.	19	Argyle Bowling Green,	R		40	(	. 8		do.	62
	R	do.	20	Mrs Baird of Newbyth,			40	Dun's frolic,	R		do.	62
Countries of States	. s	do.	20	Mrs Dundas of Arniston,	R		40		. 8		do.	62
Bonnytoun House, The Earl of Eglinton,	R	do.	20	Niel Gow's Recovery,			41	}				
The Earl of Eglinton,		401		: Life Go II b Leodo orgy	~			<b>(</b>				