

The cover features a decorative border with a repeating pattern of green thistles and white flowers with yellow centers, set against a light green background. The thistles are positioned at the top and bottom center, while the flowers are scattered throughout the border.

TARTAN CAPERS

Scottish Country Dances

as Performed by
The White Cockade

Hale
1997

THE DICTIONARY defines capers as playful leaps, carefree episodes and a species of flower buds used as seasoning. We hope this recording is all those, that your evening of dancing will be a carefree episode and that our treatment of the music will serve as seasoning while you skip playfully through the dance.

We gathered in Gerry Putnam's studio, Cedarhouse Sound, in New London, NH, to play, enjoy each other's company, and record. This is our third offering. Six musicians and one engineer. While the musicians played tunes, the engineer played his computer keyboard. Together we created this CD.

One of the joys of playing together is the spontaneous improvisation that occurs within the framework of the traditional Scottish Country Dance format. This sets us apart from many SCD bands. We hope you enjoy the textures we have created as much as we have enjoyed making them.

These dance sets are a companion for a book of original dances, *Cross Country Capers*, devised by Priscilla Burrage. Use them also, for your favorite SCD.

Ralph Thompson, Montreal, Canada, fiddle

Vince O'Donnell, Newton, MA, fiddle

Ralph Jones, Waltham, MA, flute

RP Hale, Concord, NH, piano

Cal Howard, Burlington, MA, bass

Sylvia Miskoe, Concord, NH, accordion, arrangements

THE MUSIC

The arrangements are a blend of traditional and contemporary tunes. In the case of contemporary tunes I have made great effort to contact the composers for permission to record, and if anyone has been overlooked, I apologize for the error.

THE CONTEMPORARY TUNES:

I have included three of my own tunes: "First Try" was written as an assignment in a harmony class. "Four in One" was a gift to Bob McQuillen; its chord pattern and melodic line make it possible to play it in four different time signatures. "Whimsey" is just that. "Princess Margaret" and "Edward Jay's Jaunt," are by Angus Fitchett. All of his tunes combine great melody and danceability.

Edward Jay was an avid dancer who referred to his dance evenings as 'jaunts'. John Campbell, from Cape Breton and Watertown, Massachusetts, wrote a tune and then titled it for another fiddler, Father Francis Cameron. Bob McQuillen wrote "Miskoe's Reel" in 1974. Bob also wrote "The Piper's Leg" after coming to a concert and being mesmerized by the movement of the piper's leg as she beat out the time. "Mrs Jean Cameron" and "Bill Cormack of Blair" are two more contemporary tunes, both by Angus Cameron. I learned "Fiddler's Joy," a pipe tune, from

Terry Minogue, a Concord, New Hampshire piper. Harvey Tolman lives in Nelson, New Hampshire and plays wonderful Cape Breton music. "The Lime Hill" is from his repertoire. "The Electric Jig" is by Robin Ellis, an accordionist from Kent, England. Robin needed a tune one night, wrote this jig, and titled it for his piano player who is also an electrical engineer. The deMartelly family summered in Nelson, New Hampshire.

Dudley Laufman wrote the tune for one of their family dances. Charlie Gore, Argyll, wrote "Amelia's Waltz" for his granddaughter. It was first performed when the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire visited the Oban and Lorne Fiddle Society in 1996.

THE TRADITIONAL TUNES:

"Miss Thompson" comes from the Northumbrian piping tradition via a friend in Seattle. "Henrietta Hornpipe" is found in *Cole's*. The late Dave Fuller, another accordionist, once remarked that it was a nice tune and it was too bad that no one ever played it. We enjoy its challenge. "Far From Home" and "Brumley Brae" (William MacPherson) are favorites of both contra and Scottish dancers and session players. "I Gaed a Gate" was learned from Barbara McOwen,

Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Rock Valley" is a Canadian tune played for both Scottish country dancing and New England contra dancing. William Marshall's "Earl of Angus and Arran" is one of the nicest strathspeys I know. The spontaneous harmonies by the two fiddles is a unique rendition. "Athole Brose" is sometimes called "Niel Gow's Favorite." It is a very potent drink and I wonder if the tune or the drink was the favorite. You make a paste of 2 cups of

oatmeal and 1 cup of water, let stand for an hour or so.

Then strain off the liquid, mix it with 4 tablespoons of heather honey and add 3 cups of whisky - Scotch of course.

The oatmeal is discarded. Put into a quart bottle, cork tightly. Shake well before serving. Many Scottish tunes are named after places - "Old Toon o' Ayr," "Kinloss," "Dumfries." Dunkeld is a small town noted for being Niel Gow's birthplace. He and Ron Gonnella are buried there. It also has the ruins of an eleventh century cathedral destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. Schehallion is a mountain. I don't know who the ladies Stuart, Lyall and Nicholson were, nor Mr Douglas, but they certainly inspired great tunes.

Sylvia Miskoe





Scottish Country Dances



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|---|--------------------|--------------|--|
| 1. Memories 8x32 R | 4:47 | | |
| Mrs Jean Cameron | Angus Cameron | | |
| Bill Cormack of Blair | Angus Cameron | | |
| The Dunkeld Volunteers | Niel Gow | | |
| 2. Auld Toon o' Ayr 8x32 S | 7:57 | | |
| Auld Toon o' Ayr | Trad | | |
| Earl of Angus and Arran | Wm Marshall | | |
| Schehallion | Trad | | |
| 3. Amelia's Waltz | 3:23 | Charlie Gore | |
| 4. Icebreaker 8x32 J | 4:37 | | |
| First Try | Sylvia Miskoe | | |
| Princess Margaret | A. Fitchett | | |
| Rock Valley | Trad, Canada | | |
| 5. The Perfect Ending 4x4 ^o S | 4:57 | | |
| The Fiddler's Joy | Trad | | |
| The Lime Hill | Dan R. MacDonald | | |
| Athole Brose | MacKintosh | | |
| 6. Hairy Mary 8x32 H | 4:54 | | |
| Four in One | Sylvia Miskoe | | |
| Fr Francis Cameron | John Campbell | | |
| Brumley Brae | William MacPherson | | |
| 7. Sweet Basil 8x32 H | 4:40 | | |
| Miss Thompson | Trad | | |
| Henrietta Hornpipe | Trad | | |
| Edward Jay's Jaunt | A. Fitchett | | |
| 8. Topsy O'er the Glen 3x32 S or 8x32 S | 8:05 | | |
| Miss Stuart of Grantully | Niel Gow | | |
| Miss Lyall | Trad, Cape Breton | | |
| Mrs Stewart Nicholson | Nath Gow | | |
| 9. Cool as a Cucumber 3x32 J | 1:50 | | |
| deMartelly | Dudley Laufman | | |
| 10. Beal's Reel 5x4 ^o R | 3:46 | | |
| Whimsey | Sylvia Miskoe | | |
| Miskoe's Reel | Bob McQuillen | | |
| Far From Home | Trad | | |
| 11. Pinewoods Medley 4x(32S + 32R) | 6:45 | | |
| Kinloss | Trad | | |
| Dumfries Lassies | Trad | | |
| Mr Douglas of Springwood Park | Trad | | |
| I Gaed a Gate awa Fu Yestereen | Trad | | |
| 12. The Piper's Leg 5x32 J | 2:58 | | |
| The Piper's Leg | Bob McQuillen | | |
| Electric Jig | Robin Ellis | | |

Total time 59:18



The White Cockade

