

the san francisco collection

VOLUME 2

Scottish Country Dances

Advised by & for members



of the RSCDS

of the San Francisco Branch



1 SWASHBUCKLING IAIN

"Not Her First Choice" — Kim McGarrity © 1997

"Maggie's Jigg" — Kim McGarrity © 1997

"It's Still Tuesday" — Kim McGarrity © 1996

"The Reluctant Fiddler" — Kim McGarrity © 1996

Fiddles Janet Kurnick, Kim McGarrity, John Taylor *Accordion* David Mostardi
Piano Lyle Ramshaw *Bass* Andy Johnson *Drum* John Day

This group, FIDDLESTICKS & IVORY, has been playing together for over a decade, and the current lineup of musicians has been playing together since 1989. Their debut recording, "Ghillies on the Golden Gate," was released in 1992.

"Not Her First Choice" was named for Carolyn Hunt. "Maggie's Jigg" was named for our recording engineer, Mike Cogan, after his favorite comic strip. "It's Still Tuesday" refers to a deadline for Jane Muirhead, and "The Reluctant Fiddler" is named for one of the fiddlers in the band.

2 CAPELTHWAITE

"King's Reel" — trad

"Put Me in the Big Chest" — trad

"Geordie MacLeish" — trad

"Mrs. Dow's Reel" — Dan R. MacDonald © Cameron Music 1991

Fiddle John Taylor *Piano* Andrew Imbrie

JOHN TAYLOR AND ANDREW IMBRIE have been playing together since 1986. Their first recording was an LP titled "Steppin' Out," released in 1988. They released a CD called "Live" in 1996.

The dance for this cut was written by Claudette Sigg in memory of a San Francisco Branch dancer, Cap Moran. Claudette writes her dances by choosing an alternate tune from a recording and then devising the dance using the music as inspiration. All four of these tunes are from Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

3 THE LAIRD OF ATHERTON

"The Laird of Atherton" — Alasdair Fraser © 1987

"Miss Douglas" — trad

Fiddle Alasdair Fraser *Piano* Muriel Johnstone

In 1987, Alex Harvey was visiting and working in the San Francisco Bay Area and living in an impressive house in the town of Atherton. Before Alex was to return home to Los Alamos, New Mexico, he gave a farewell party. ALASDAIR FRASER was invited to provide the music and was very impressed with the house where Alex had been "living like a laird."

4 ON THE PORT TACK

"The Shower Reel" — Kim McGarrity © 1996

"Where's the Wean?" — John Taylor © 1993

"Flibbertigibbet" — David Mostardi © 1992

"Jane's Reel" — Kim McGarrity © 1997

Fiddles Janet Kurnick, Kim McGarrity, John Taylor *Accordion* David Mostardi
Piano Lyle Ramshaw *Bass* Andy Johnson *Drum* John Day

"The Shower Reel" was written for Coletta and Armin Busse, for their wedding shower. FIDDLESTICKS & IVORY borrowed it for Lyle Ramshaw's dance. "Where's the Wean?" is for Verna and Jerry in Tucson; wean (pronounced wane) is Glasgow slang for a "wee one," or a small child. Jerry refers to Verna as "The Wean." When David first discovered the word "Flibbertigibbet," he knew that some day he would find the right tune for it, and this is the result. "Jane's Reel" is for Jane Muirhead, without whose boundless energy this recording would never have come to be.

5 COMING THROUGH THE RYE

"Coming Through the Rye" — trad

"Glendaruel Highlanders" — trad

"Cock o' the North" — trad

"One Hundred Pipers" — trad

Accordion Rod Stradling *Piano* Andrew Imbrie *Drum* Donald Robertson

As our name suggests, NO STRINGS ATTACHED is one of the few Bay Area bands that does not include any stringed instruments (purists have noted that the piano does have strings somewhere in its anatomy and a snare drum gets its name from some string-like appendages on its lower surface, but the accordion has the honor of a true absence of strings). We hope you enjoy the well-known tunes we have used in the recording, and that you will sing along in the appropriate places.

6 ASILOMAR ROMANTIC

"Loch Ba" — Paul Machlis © Sarena Music, 1985

"Ides of March" — Sheryl Wohlers Ladig © 1988

"The Russian River" — Teri Rasmusson © 1988

"Miss Lyall" — Athole Collection

Fiddles Janette Duncan, Duncan Mackintosh *Recorder* Ron Wallace

Guitar Mike Hird *Piano* Gary Thomas *Bodhran* Carleen Duncan-Van Gorder

WILD ROSE is based in Sonoma County and regularly plays for dance classes as well as engagements with Ron Wallace's performing dance ensembles. Ron and Gary are both Scottish Country Dance and stepdance instructors. We feature the old-world sound of the wooden recorder and goatskin bodhran mixed with fiddles, guitar and piano. We hope you enjoy this combination of three modern pieces with "Miss Lyall," the one traditional tune.

7 FIZZBIN – THE NEXT GENERATION

"Walking on the Moon" — Addie Harper

"Scotty's Favorite Reel" — Dan R. MacDonald © Cameron Music 1991

"Rising Moon Reel" — Dougie Pincock

Fiddle John Taylor *Piano* Andrew Imbrie

Carolyn Comings and Kim Jorgensen wrote the dance originally as a demonstration piece in commemoration of the late Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry. The original music was from the soundtrack of the movie "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home." We couldn't use the Star Trek theme for this dance, so John and Andy chose music with appropriate titles instead.

8 TIRALUIN

"Fran's Tiraluin" — Kim McGarrity © 1996

"Hybrid Vigor" — Kim McGarrity © 1996

"Moose the Cat" — Andrew Imbrie © 1996

"The Grand Marshal" — David Mostardi © 1996

Fiddles Janet Kurnick, Margo Leslie, Kim McGarrity, David Strong
Recorder Sherryl Fawx *Mandolin* Geoff Palmer *Drum* Donald Robertson
Accordion David Mostardi *Piano* Lyle Ramshaw, Andrew Imbrie

The San Francisco Branch MONTHLY PARTY BAND doesn't really exist, per se; it's a collection of musicians who play together, in different combinations, for the monthly parties, usually four musicians at a time. This recording includes most, but not all, of those musicians.

The first tune was named for Jack Baxter's late wife Fran, a very special person, loved by all who knew her. "Hybrid Vigor" refers to the ten diverse musicians melding themselves together to make this recording. "Moose the Cat" lives with Andy and Sherryl. "The Grand Marshal" is the dance deviser, Jack Baxter. Jack has always used a splendid antler-staff, with lights on the antlers, to direct the dancers. The lights shine only on the side he wants the dancers to go!

13 MONTEREY MIXER

“By the Beautiful Sea” — music by Henry Carroll, words by Harold Atteridge © 1914

Fiddles Janet Kurnick, Margo Leslie, Kim McGarrity, David Strong
Recorder Sherryl Fawx *Mandolin* Geoff Palmer *Drum* Donald Robertson
Accordion David Mostardi *Piano* Andrew Imbrie, Lyle Ramshaw

At its annual Asilomar weekend, on beautiful Monterey Bay, the San Francisco Branch has a wonderful tradition of live music throughout the event. On Sunday morning, all of the musicians gather on stage to play for the final combined class. The band often uses this opportunity to use unusual music. In that spirit, for the first (and perhaps final) time, the MONTHLY PARTY BAND makes its debut on vocals, assisted by Jane Muirhead, Ellen Aaron, and Alan Twigg. Please sing along with us.

Acknowledgments

This CD came about when we decided to prepare a book of dances devised by or for Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, San Francisco Branch members for the 25th anniversary of our Branch. We have such wonderful musicians in the San Francisco Bay Area that we embarked on the production of a companion recording to go with the book. We decided to spread the task of recording the dances among the various formal and casual groupings of musicians who play together for local events. Fiddlesticks & Ivory may be familiar to you from their recording, “Ghillies on the Golden Gate.” John Taylor and Andrew Imbrie have a recording titled “Steppin’ Out,” and a new CD titled “Live.” Many of the remaining musicians have recorded with other groups, or in other genres. We also have a special guest appearance by Alasdair Fraser, who lives here in northern California, and by Muriel Johnstone of Scotland, a good friend of the Branch.

A number of people helped with this project. To Kim McGarrity, Andrew Imbrie, Barbara McOwen, and Mike Cogan, special thanks for your help and patience in answering many questions. We’d also like to thank the Executive Committee of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, San Francisco Branch, for agreeing to fund this recording.

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