

1. The Duke of Fife's Welcome to Deeside

by James Scott Skinner
A happy Scottish march.

/Campbell's Farewell to Redcastle

Traditional Scottish
Another march: we do not know to which Campbell the title refers.

2. Planxty Drew

by Turlough O'Carolan
The famous Irish harper Turlough O'Carolan wrote many tunes for patrons, of which this is one. What is a planxty? Most likely a tune written in honor of someone, but also sometimes defined as a tune in 6/8 played rather slowly.

/Miss Noble

by Turlough O'Carolan
The tune has survived, but information about Miss Noble hasn't.

3. The Star of the County Down

Traditional Irish
A melody that elicits smiles. For many years this has been my go-to piece when people ask me to "play something" on the harp.

4. Loch Ruthven

Simon Fraser Collection
According to the notes at the end of the Simon Fraser Collection, Loch Ruthven is a good fishing lake in Inverness-shire, Scotland. Or it least it was, in the 1800s.

/The Feet Washing

Simon Fraser Collection
A Scottish pipe reel. Simon Fraser indicates that this tune could be a challenge to play for both pipers and fiddlers, and I will add that it is also challenging on the harp. When I first arranged the tune, I removed many of the repeated notes, but over time some have crept back in. The tradition of feet-washing involved a bride's friends coming over on the eve of her wedding to ceremonially wash her feet - an occasion for merriment.

5. Skye Air

Patrick McDonald Collection
Having mentioned Skye in the album title, I wanted to also include a tune related to it. This is my favorite of the Skye airs in the Patrick McDonald Collection.

The spaciousness of the melody transports me to a high coastline, overlooking sea and rocks and moor.

6. The Cold Nights of Winter

Traditional Shetland
I first heard this tune on an album by American folk musicians Jay Ungar and Molly Mason. The quiet harmonics at the beginning of my arrangement are meant to invoke the crispness of the air on a dark winter evening.

/Sleep Sound in the Morning

Traditional Shetland
Since this tune is a rousing reel rather than a lullaby, I imagine that the title refers to how well merrymakers sleep after having stayed up all night dancing.

7. Small is my Inclination to Sleep

Simon Fraser Collection
The seven-bar phrases in this tune give it a slightly unsettled feeling, reminiscent of the way one's mind wanders when trying to fall asleep.

/The Old Favorite

Traditional Irish
A jig from County Clare and one of my new favorites.

8. Ae Fond Kiss

by Robert Burns
Robert Burns set his poem "Ae Fond Kiss" to two different melodies. This is the later (and better-known) of the two.

*Had we never lov'd sae kindly,
Had we never lov'd sae blindly,
Never met—or never parted—
We had ne'er been broken-hearted.*

/Rory Dall's Port

by Rory Dall
Robert Burns initially set the words of "Ae Fond Kiss" to the tune of "Rory Dall's Port," probably composed by the Irish harper Rory Dall O'Cahan, rather than the Scottish harper Roderick Morrison, who was also known as Rory Dall.

9. Lord Huntley's Cave

by James Scott Skinner
The first of two marches in this March/Strathspey/Reel set. The "MSR" is a common competition set for bagpipers, fiddle players and harpers.

/The Greenwood Side

Traditional Scottish
I love the shift from the D major of "Lord Huntley's Cave" to the B minor in "The Greenwood Side."

/The Forest Where the Deer Resort

Simon Fraser Collection

The evocative title initially attracted me to this tune: I picture a few deer lounging in a glade, wearing sunglasses and drinking fruity beverages.

/The Ale is Dear

Traditional Scottish

A lively pipe reel. The title should be understood to mean the ale is expensive, rather than well-loved.

10. This Gloom on my Soul

Simon Fraser Collection

Another descriptive title. I choose to imagine that the gloom is of a "light and momentary" sort that will be lifted.

11. Brose and Butter

Traditional Scottish

Beware this catchy slip jig. I went on an all-day hike in Nerstrand Big Woods State Park when preparing this tune for the National Scottish Harp Championship and could not keep any other melody in my head. I came up with a whole new set of words describing the autumn wildlife, the numerous puddles that spotted the trail, and the wood elves my imagination stationed behind every tree.

/Jacky Tar

Traditional Scottish

Also published as "The Cuckoo's Nest" in *O'Neill's Music of Ireland*. This is one of those tunes claimed by the Scottish, the Irish, and the English.

/Far From Home

Traditional Scottish

I learned this tune from the pages of the *Folk Harp Journal* and enjoyed making it my own.

12. Are Ye Sleepin' Maggie?

by Robert Tannahill

This song's vivid words describe a young man visiting his sweetheart in the midst of the thunderstorm. He waits outside her window and whispers to her, hoping to avoid waking her father.

Mirk and rainy is the night;

No' a starn in a' the carie;

Lightnings gleam athwart the lift,

And winds drive on wi' winter's fury.

I translate these lines as "Dark and rainy is the night; there's not a star in all the sky. Lightning gleams across the sky and the winds drive on with winter's fury."

13. Wiggert's Polska

Traditional Swedish

I went in search of some Scandinavian tunes on the occasion of my (at the time) future harp student's birthday party and discovered this delightful, carefree melody by shoemaker Wigers of Hälsingland.

14. Cam Ye O'er Frae France

Traditional Scottish

A biting Jacobite song, written in mockery of King George 1 of England. Despite its rude words, I love the 3/2 rhythm of this tune: it makes me want to stomp my feet!

/To Daunton Me

Traditional Scottish

"Daunton," according to the Scottish National Dictionary, means to frighten, subdue, or discourage. This tune was published multiple times in the 18th and early 19th centuries, with various lyrics. My favorite version starts:

To daunton me, and me sae young,

And guid king James's auldest son!

O, that's the thing that ne'er can be;

For the man is unborn that'll daunton me!

The jig version of this tune follows the 4/4 version of "To Daunton Me" in the *Caledonian Pocket Companion, Book 1* and is most likely the work of the publisher, James Oswald.

15. Ca' the Yowes to the Knowes

Traditional Scottish

"Ca' the Yowes to the Knowes" translates as "Call the sheep to the hills." This melody reminds me of the sheep pasture (Glen Lichd) pictured on the cover of this album, where we stopped to take a walk on the way home after visiting the Isle of Skye.

/Morpeth Lasses

Traditional Scottish

A variation on the very popular Scottish tune "Marry Me Now." I wanted to do something a bit different and ended up adding three against two rhythms in the last repetition.

16. The Parting Glass

Traditional Irish

A tune I fell in love with after listening to folk musicians Curtis and Loretta's album *Sit Down Beside Me*. In my own rendition I tried to craft a musical interlude that reflects both the sadness of leaving friends and the joy of having spent time with them.