

HOEDOWNER

Tune of the Month

Special Thanks to
Karen Bennett of
District 3 for
providing
Tune of the Month
for September

ALEXANDER'S HORNPIPE. AKA – "Alexander's Favourite." AKA and see "Byrne's Hornpipe (2)," "Goswick Kirn," "Grimaldi's Hornpipe," "Kelly's Hornpipe (5)," "Prunoble's Hornpipe," "Sandlark (The)," "Tom Cat's Hornpipe." Irish, English; Hornpipe. D Major. Standard tuning (fiddle). AABB. The tune appears as "Byrne's Hornpipe (2)" in the Feis Ceoil Collection of Traditional Irish Music (1914). Curiously, O'Neill printed it in 1903 in his Music of Ireland, but omitted it from his 1907 Dance Music of Ireland, possibly as he may have discovered an English provenance for the tune. The tune is known as a piping tune, dating back to 78 RPM recordings of "Alexanders" by uilleann pipers Tommy Reck (1922-1991, recorded in Dublin in 1950) and Liam Walsh (recorded in 1933).

Early versions of the hornpipe can be found in mid-19th century music manuscript copybooks of fiddlers from the north of England: John Burks under the title "Prunoble's Hornpipe," "Grimaldi's Hornpipe" from, and "Gos-wick Kirn" and "Tom Cat's Hornpipe."

You can find excellent renditions of this hornpipe on YouTube. This [one](#) is played by father and son Larry and Neil Cusick, who use the typical syncopated rhythm popular in hornpipes. A hornpipe is a dance performed by sailors onboard ship.

Alexander's Hornpipe

The musical score for "Alexander's Hornpipe" is presented in four staves. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. It features a series of eighth notes with a triplet of three eighth notes at the beginning. Chords D, Em, D, and A are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with chords D, Em, D, 1A7, D, 2A7, and D. The third staff shows chords D, G, A, D, and A. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords D, G, A, and a first ending (1.) with chords D and A, followed by a second ending (2.) with chords A and D. The piece ends with a double bar line.