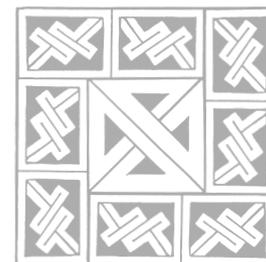


BASIC FIDDLERS

philharmonic

CELTIC FIDDLE TUNES



andrew h. dabczynski & bob phillips

Welcome to *Basic Fiddlers Philharmonic: Celtic Fiddle Tunes*

Alfred's *Fiddlers Philharmonic* series has developed out of a love for fiddle music in all its many forms and styles. *Basic Fiddlers Philharmonic: Celtic Fiddle Tunes* presents a set of tunes that sound great with beginning string players. These Celtic Fiddle Tunes have roots in Irish, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish-American folk music, as well as 19th-century popular music. They often can be sung with fun and easy words. With *Basic Fiddlers Philharmonic: Celtic Fiddle Tunes*, beginning string players will develop critical string-playing skills, and also learn how to improvise, arrange, and create satisfying musical presentations both alone and with friends. Students with various levels of ability can learn the tunes and play them together using the unique and effective *Fiddlers Philharmonic* format. Students can play along with the recording.

Following some historical background, each tune is presented in a basic, simplified version intended for the beginning player. Where appropriate, words are provided so students can sing along. A more advanced version of the tune appears next, with some musical variations that are designed to challenge and motivate students. A back-up part is then provided where students can improvise simple accompanying harmonies and rhythms using the printed parts as a departure point. All parts can be played together in any combination. The last page of the book provides students with additional simple-but-effective ideas for fiddling improvisation. More information, ideas for teachers, and piano accompaniments are included elsewhere in the comprehensive Teacher's Score.

So rosin up the bow, dive in, and have fun with *Basic Fiddlers Philharmonic: Celtic Fiddle Tunes!*

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Rakes of Mallow

The “Rakes of Mallow” is such a well-known tune that it is often considered a “standard” among Irish fiddle players. Like most fiddle tunes, no one knows exactly who composed it—or when—but it first appeared in tune collections before 1750. It was originally a tavern song, and is known by other titles. Those titles include “The Galway Piper” and “Piping Tim,” with fun words about the town piper (flute or whistle player).

Lyrics

Ev’ry person in the nation
 Whether great or humble station
 Holds in highest estimation
 Piping Tim of Galway.
 Loudly can he play high or low,
 He can move you fast or slow,
 Touch your hearts or stir your toe
 Piping Tim of Galway.

(A reproducible vocal lead sheet is included in the Teacher’s Score)

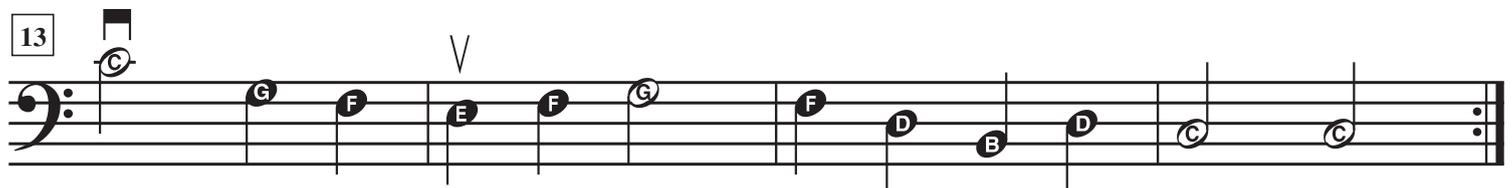
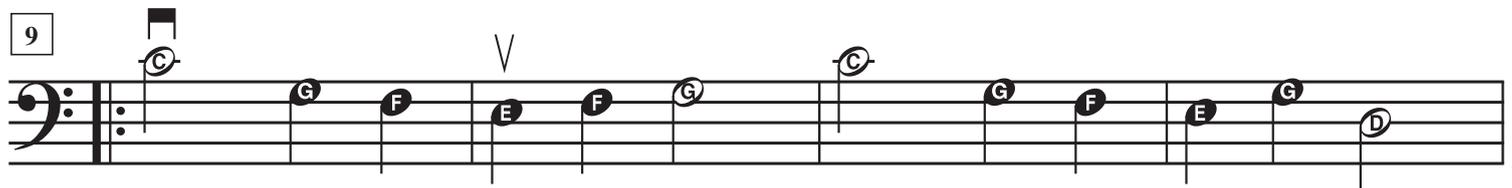
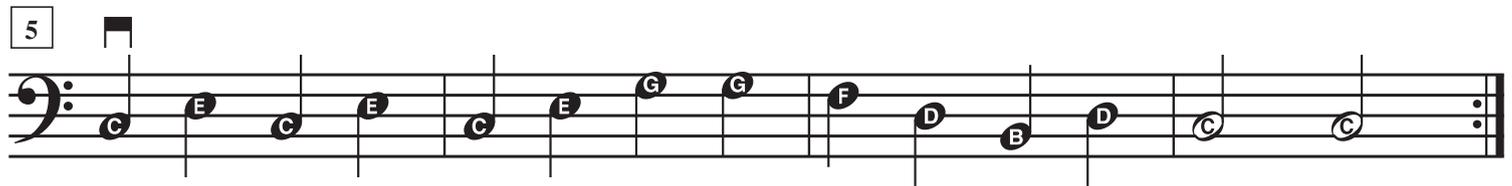
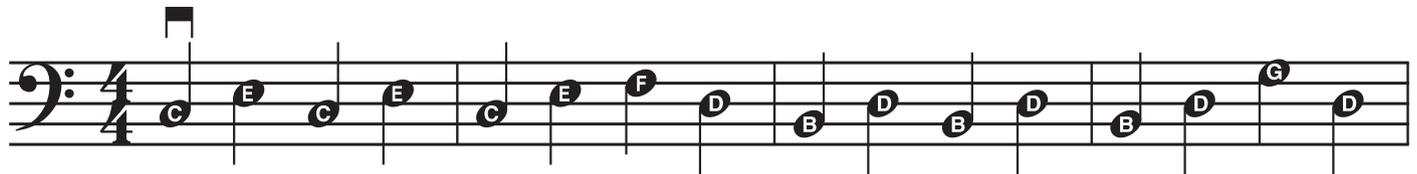


Basic Tune



Lively (♩ = 130)

Irish Reel





Skye Boat Song

The "Skye Boat Song" tells a famous story in Scottish history. It describes the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie after his army of Scottish Highlanders was defeated by the British in 1746 at the Battle of Culloden. Dressed as a maid, and with the help of Scottish heroine Flora MacDonald, he escaped to the Isle of Skye in a small boat. Over a century later, Sir Harold Boulton wrote poetry about that event that was then set to an old Scottish *air*, or melody. Today, the expressive melody is usually played rather slowly and with feeling.

Lyrics

Chorus:

Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the wing,
Onward! the sailors cry;
Carry the lad that's born to be King
Over the sea to Skye.

1. Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar,
Thunderclaps rend the air;
Baffled, our foes stand by the shore,
Follow they will not dare.

Chorus

(A reproducible vocal lead sheet is
included in the Teacher's Score)

2. Though the waves leap, soft shall ye sleep,
Ocean's a royal bed.

Rocked in the deep, Flora will keep
Watch by your weary head.

Chorus

3. Many's the lad fought on that day,
Well the Claymore could wield,
When the night came, silently lay
Dead in Culloden's field.

Chorus

4. Burned are their homes, exile and death
Scatter the loyal men;
Yet ere the sword cool in the sheath
Charlie will come again.

Chorus



Basic Tune

Smoothly (♩ = 90)

Scottish Air

