

Scottish Music 2a – Dances

March

- Music with a strong, steady pulse that is suitable to march to
 - 2 or 4 beats in a bar
 - In Simple time
 - A march is often heard in a set with a strathspey and reel
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- Extract 1
 - Extract 2

Strathspey

- 4 beats in the bar
 - Moderate tempo
 - SIMPLE time
 - Features DOTTED RHYTHMS and SCOTS SNAPS
 - Dance sounds quite 'jerky' because of the rhythm
 - Often has TRIPLETS at the end of the phrase.
 - Often followed by a reel
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- Extract 1
 - Extract 2

Scotch Snap



A very short accented note before a longer note.

Waltz

- 3 beats in the bar
 - SIMPLE time
 - Fairly slow tempo but can have a 1 in a bar feel if it is a faster waltz
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- Extract 1
 - Extract 2

Reel

- 4 beats in the bar
- Fast tempo
- Simple time – think 'Je-nny, Je-nny'
- Smooth rhythms – quavers and semiquavers
- Each beat is equally divided into groups of 2 or 4
- Often follows a Strathspey

- Extract 1
- Extract 2

Jig

- Fast tempo
- COMPOUND time – each beat divided into groups of 3 or 6 – think 'Je-nni'fer, Je-nni-fer'
- *Usually in 6/8 time, though can be written in 9/8 or 12/8*

- Extract 1
- Extract 2

Scottish Music 2b – Vocal music

Bothy Ballad

- Unaccompanied folk song from North East Scotland
- Sung by MEN
- Many repeating verses – STROPHIC
- Male labourers housed in bothies on the farm sang bothy ballads.
- Songs were about their living conditions, their work, boos, food served to them etc.

STROPHIC

Each verse of a vocal piece
has the same music

- Extract 1
- Extract 2

Scots Ballad

- A Scottish folksong which tells a story
- Sung by MEN and WOMEN
- Many repeating verses – STROPHIC
- Sometimes A CAPPELLA and sometimes with instruments

- Extract 1
- Extract 2

Mouth Music

- Unaccompanied songs with Gaelic or nonsense words
- Usually fast tempo, sung for ceilidh dances
 - Extract 1
 - Extract 2

Waulking Song

- A Gaelic work song with strong rhythmical rhythm
- Sung by WOMEN to keep the timing of the banging of the tweed on the table
- Call and response style – line sung by soloist and the rest of the women join in with the refrain – often ‘hi-ri-I, ho ro hu o’
 - Extract 1
 - Extract 2

Gaelic Psalm

- Religious
- Slow, A CAPPELLA church tunes
- The solo leader, known as the Precentor sings the first line and congregation join in after him.
 - Extract 1
 - Extract 2