



## **Foreword**

I have just spent a very happy hour playing through the tunes in this book! The music is full of variety, freshness and originality with a smattering of reflections of a bygone era. The tunes were written over a period of many years - Ian started writing tunes whilst still at school and the compositions have appeared sporadically. Ian says his musical influences are eclectic - from classical to pop and everything in between - but he has always enjoyed traditional forms of music. Ian captures the essence of what is needed for dance music and this comes from a lifetime of involvement in the dancing scene - both English and Scottish Country Dancing. He also reveals his emotional side in some beautiful slow pieces written, as Ian says, "as a very direct response to a stimulus".

Keen to take up new challenges, Ian is now composing for a concert band (Landing Party) which has given him a new perspective and a chance to break out and explore some ideas outside the standard SCD template.

From the dance musician's point of view this book will provide a great source of tunes suitable for dancing both in class and in the social dancing situation. The tunes work equally well played solo or in a band. Ian plays fiddle, accordion and piano. This is possibly one of the reasons for the variety of styles in his writing.

There are tunes to fit almost every bill, from dancing to listening. Some of my favourite are: the jigs Mischief Right Through, Parting Shot and Dance in the Dark; the beautiful airs When Reality Dawns and Life, Love and Loss; and the rollicking reels Plastered Again and Dundry Hill.

Set aside an hour or two and enjoy playing through this excellent collection of music by Ian Robertson.

Muriel Johnstone, January 2014

# The Composer

The traditional music of the British Isles has always been in my blood. My great-grandmother was a pianist in Aberdeen in the late 1800s and is known to have accompanied the great J Scott Skinner. My father led a country dance band for many years and passed on his love of music to me and to my sister. I am forever grateful to Mum and Dad for the encouragement and investment they made in my musical education. I doubt that I showed gratitude then, but it has made me what I am today.

A small number of the tunes in this collection were specifically written for Scottish Country Dances. However, the majority recall friends and places, situations and moments in life which have touched me over the years. I hope that you find something here to enjoy. Please feel free to experiment with your own harmonies and arrangements – that is the joy of this kind of music. And let me know what you think some day!

Ian Robertson, January 2014

### With grateful thanks to:

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Muriel Johnstone for the Foreword and for the cover photograph, taken August 2013 at Pleasant Bay, Cape Breton Island.

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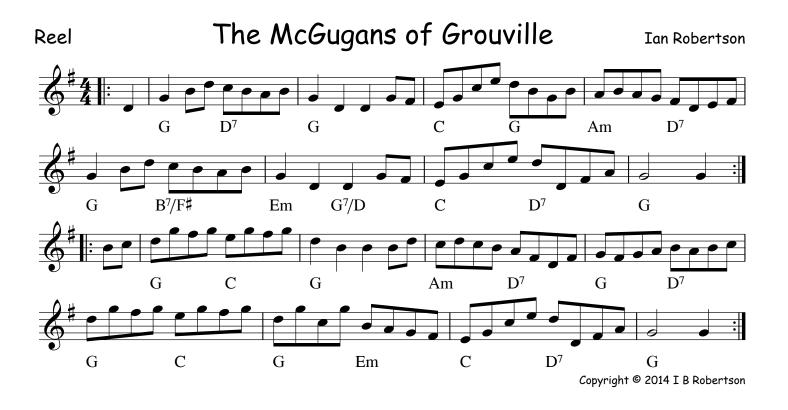
# The tunes and the stories

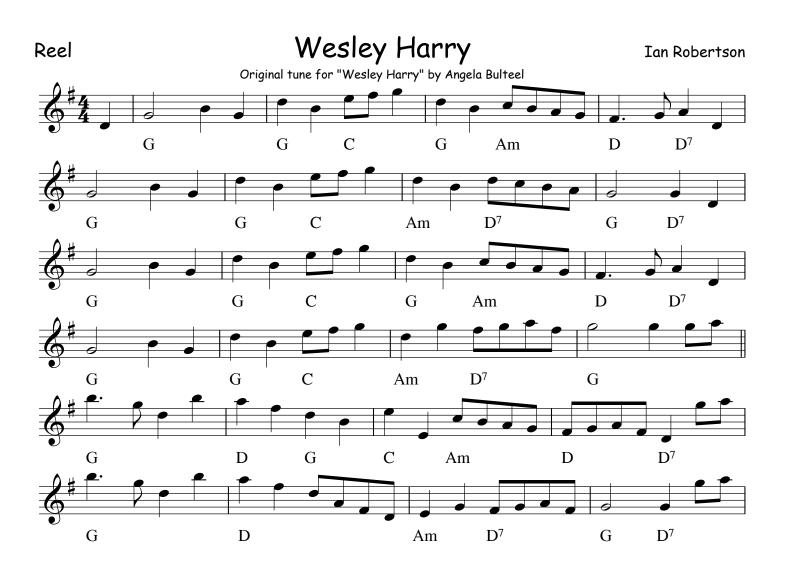
<b>9/11</b> - like many, I was deeply affected by the terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York on 11 September 2001. This tune was written in response to the events of that day and afterwards.	34
A l'avenir! - a toast (in French!) meaning "To the future!", written as the original tune for Ann Dix's dance "Vive la danse", published in Reel Friends 3.	30
Air for Jill - written for my ex-sister in law who lives in Australia.	27
Alan Paterson of Berne - written for a dancing friend from Switzerland. Chris Harris's dance "Black Leather Kilt", for which this is the original tune, salutes a remarkable piece of dance wear sported by Alan on occasions.	14
Ask No More - a tune written in 10 bar phrases as an alternative for the dance "Wee Cooper of Fife".	13
Auntie's Jig - for my sister, Judith Muir, not long after the birth of my daughter, Jenny.	32
Awkward Customer, The - we've all encountered one or two of these in our time!	37
<b>Aylesbury Fiddle Rally Anniversary March, The</b> - this event, started by my father, ran for 25 years and was the largest of its kind south of the border. Many thousands of pounds were raised over the years for a variety of charities. This tune became the opening number in our annual rally.	22
Buckland March - Buckland is a village very close to my home in Buckinghamshire.	26
Call of Home, The - written for my concert band, Landing Party, as a salute to all those men and women who serve the country overseas. Originally conceived with bagpipes and military band in mind.	30
Castle Steps, The - my band, Sound Company, regularly played in Rechberg, Germany for a Scottish Country Dance weekend. Sunday mornings always involved a walk to the castle at the top of the hill.	36
Dance in the Dark - maybe not a wise pursuit! Recorded in a very atmospheric arrangement by my band, Landing Party.	28
<b>Dr Andrew Paterson of Redland</b> - a good friend and one-time leader and choreographer of Bathbased dance display team Corryvrechan.	23
<b>Dundry Hil</b> l - a prominent landmark near Bristol, and venue for many musical parties at the home of Erica and Steve Archer.	35
Five Mark Peace - in the days before the Euro and mobile phones, the peace ensued when a 5 Deutschmark coin was produced for an urgent phone call from a German phonebox!	10
Folly Jig - I no longer remember the exact incident, but named after a foolish act by someone, somewhere!	12
Gimme the Dots! - a common response when asked to play something unfamiliar. The "dots", of course, refer to the music.	17
Ginger's Reel - did I really name a tune after my children's favourite guinea pig?!	13
Half a World Away - written when my children spent Christmas with relatives in Australia some years ago.	14
Jennifer - a waltz written for my daughter.	25
Judith's Waltz - written for my sister, Judith who was my musical partner for many years and was pianist with Sound Company.	29
<b>Lament for Janet</b> - written for my aunt whose indomitable spirit through a lifetime of illness was a lesson to all who knew her.	11
<b>Life, Love and Loss</b> - for my father, Alan Breck Robertson, who was my musical inspiration right	38

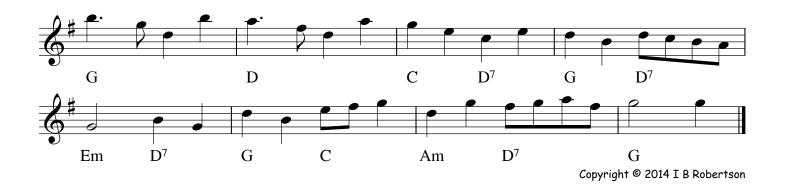
Master Thomas - a march written to celebrate the birth of my son.	33
McGugans of Grouville, The - dear friends Helen and Mac showed us great hospitality whenever the band played in Jersey. We have also enjoyed wonderful family holidays at their house.	8
<b>Memories of Jimmy Thom</b> - Jimmy, from Guildtown, was a very generous friend. He was always ready with encouragement, stories and an amazing manuscript collection of tunes which he shared freely.	15
<b>Mischief Right Through</b> - written for my pet whippet, Lightning, who lives up to the tune title daily. This is the original tune for the dance "Lightning at Dawn" published in the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's Diamond Anniversary Book.	11
Moving Up - written around the time that my daughter Jenny moved up to secondary school.	6
<b>Nose in the Night, The</b> - the nose belongs to Lightning, my pet whippet, who likes to check where everyone is just after the lights go out at night.	9
One that Got Away, The - I couldn't possibly say who this was written for!	32
Ostler's Field - the home of Aylesbury Rugby Club on the edge of the village where I live.	10
Other Left, The - the original tune for the dance of the same name, published in the Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club's Diamond Anniversary Book.	18
Parting Shot, The - a bit of fun, written for my band Landing Party.	31
Perth Place - the address of a holiday home in Fort William where I once spent a happy holiday.	34
<b>Plastered Again</b> - written for my son, Tom, who spent months in plaster following an operation on his hand.	18
Poppy Fields Strathspey - written around the time of Remembrance Sunday.	36
Reel of Hope - sometimes, hope is all we have!	24
Resolution Jig - New Year or otherwise!	37
Riding the Wave - a fiddle duet written for my band, Landing Party.	20
<b>Rosy</b> - a waltz for Rosy Le Good, my regular musical partner for Scottish Country dances, and a member of Landing Party.	7
Silhouette Strathspey - after a particularly striking art project by my son.	24
<b>Silver Birch Strathspey</b> - a very fine specimen which stood in my neighbour's garden but is now sadly gone.	23
<b>Song for a Restless Boy</b> - the result of a long night trying to get my son, Tom, to sleep when he was a baby.	19
"Two's Company" Two step the title track from a recording made with my cister. Judith back in	16
"Two's Company" Two-step - the title track from a recording made with my sister, Judith, back in the very early 1990s.	10
	8
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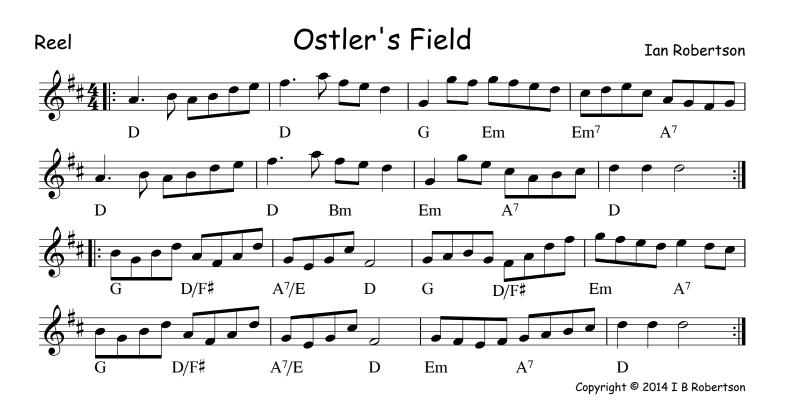


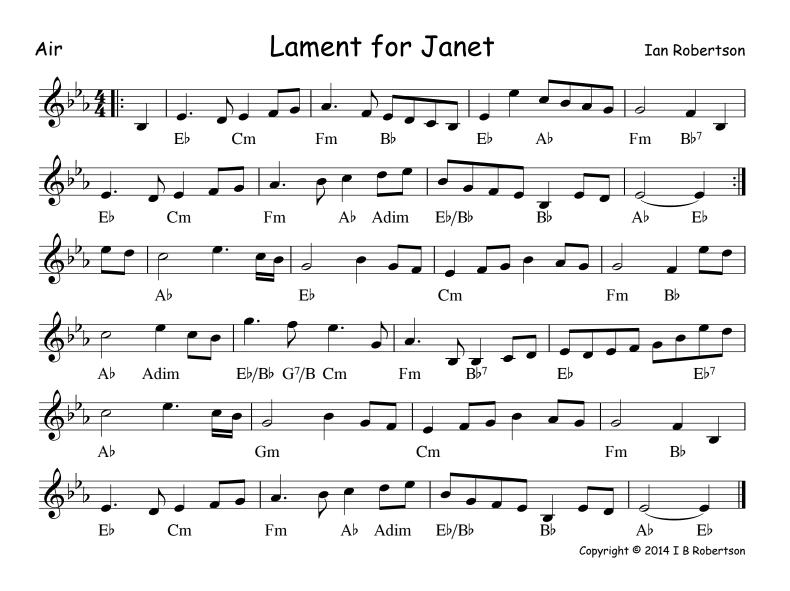


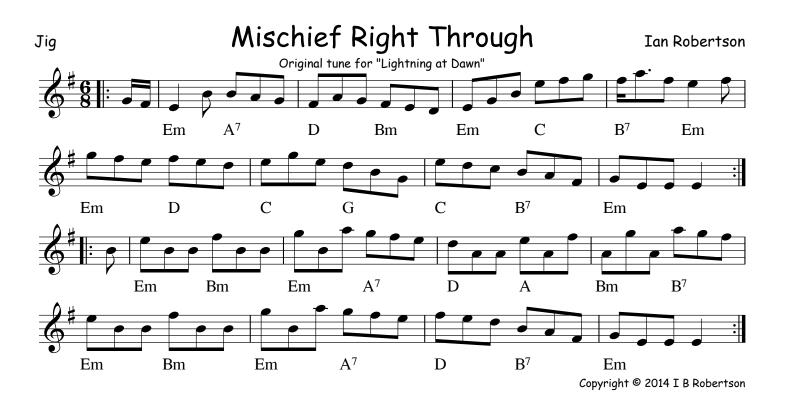




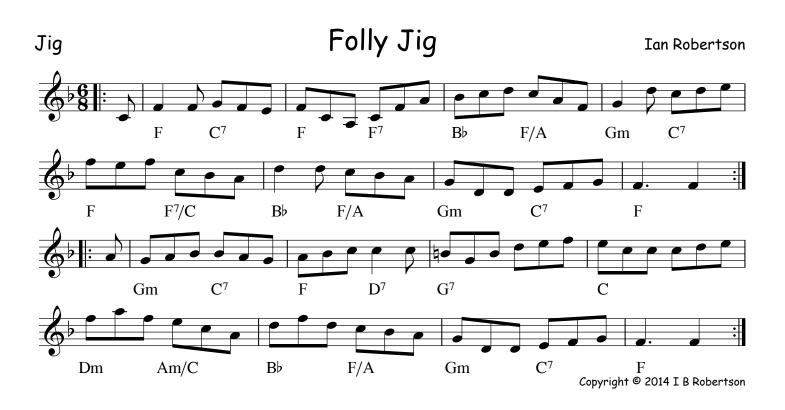


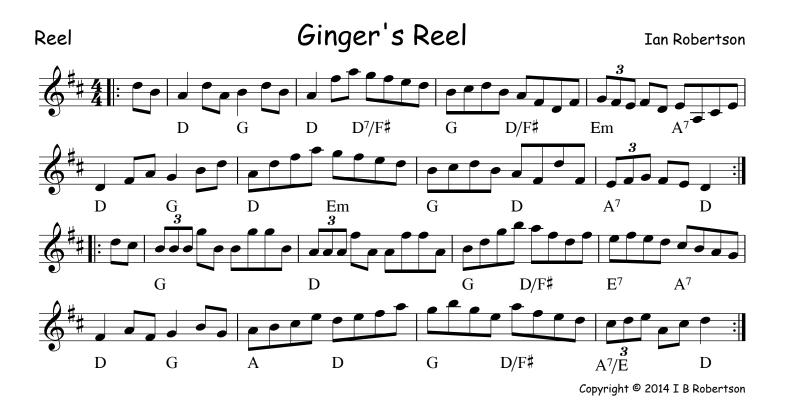






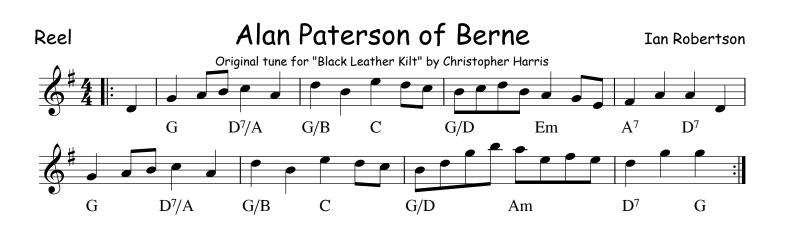


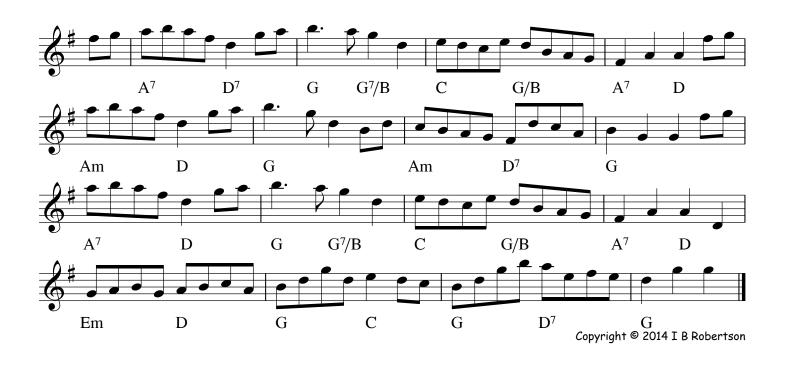


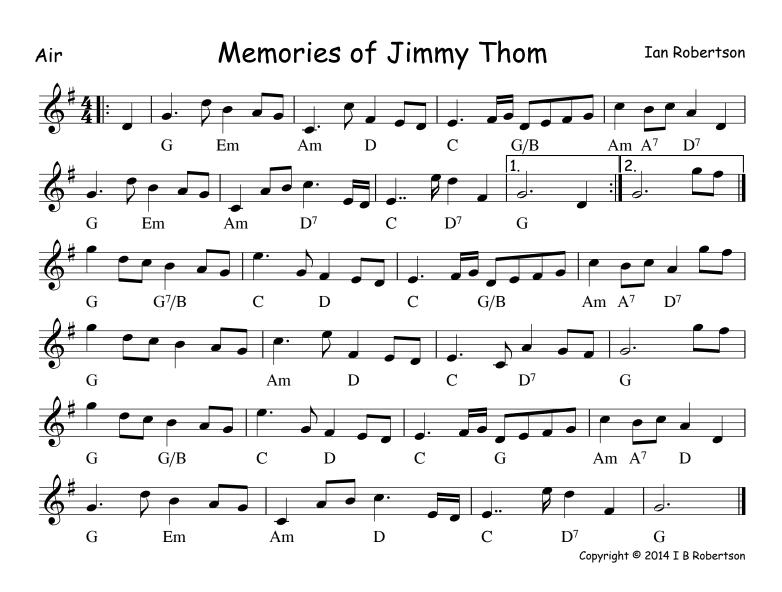








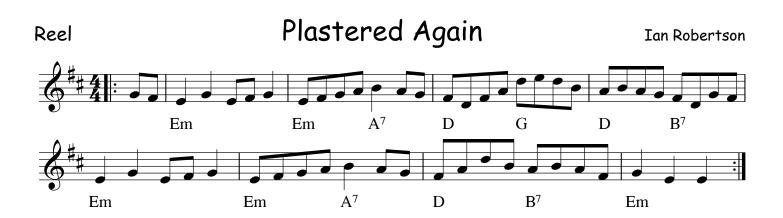


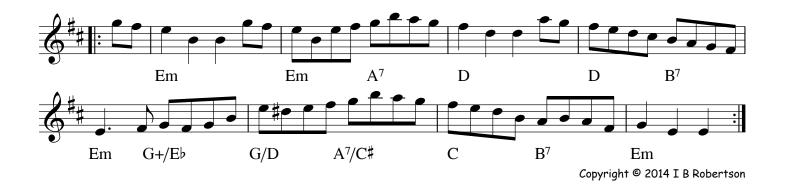












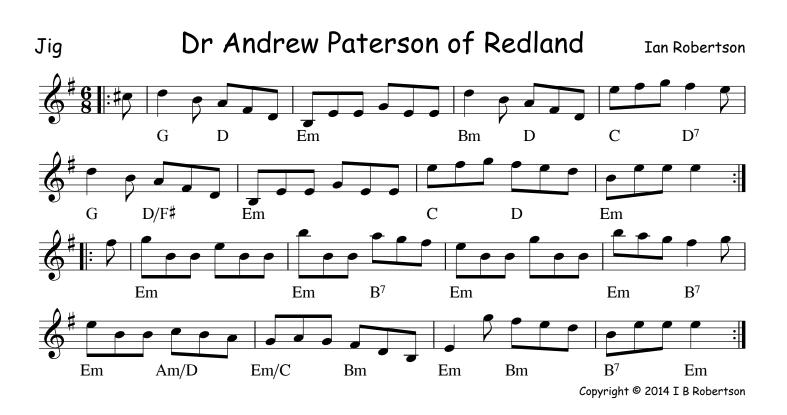
















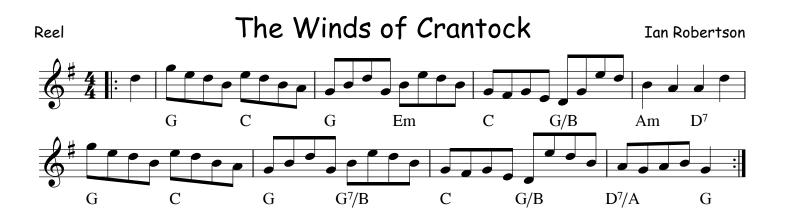


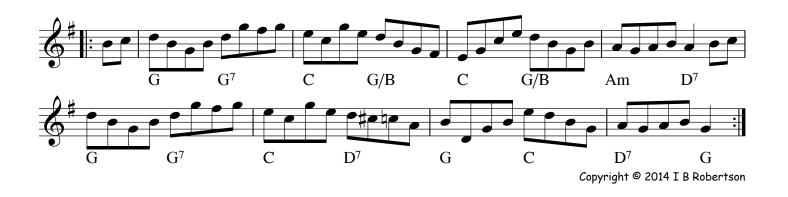






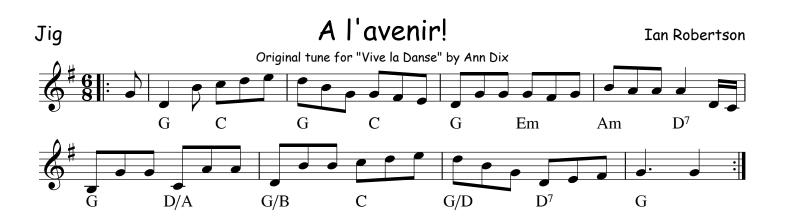


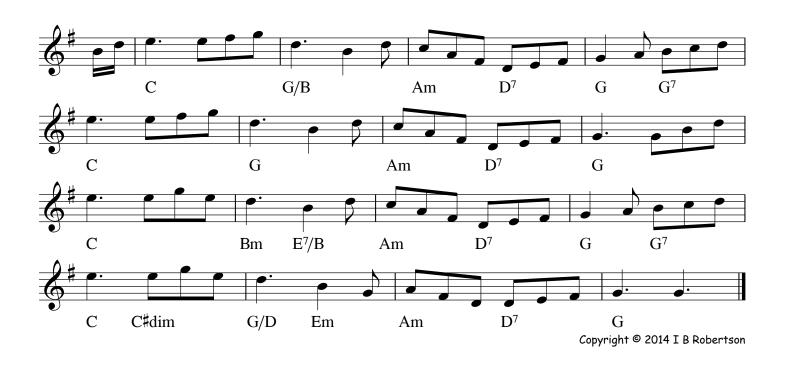




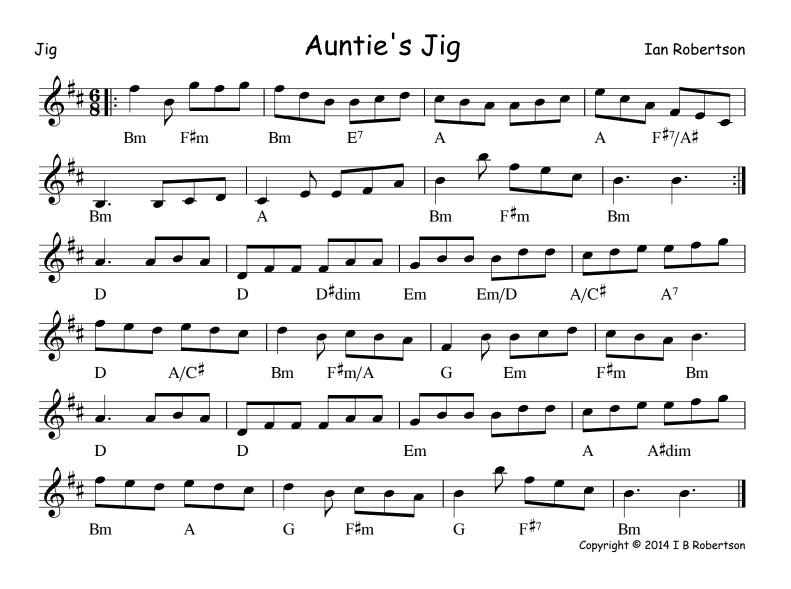




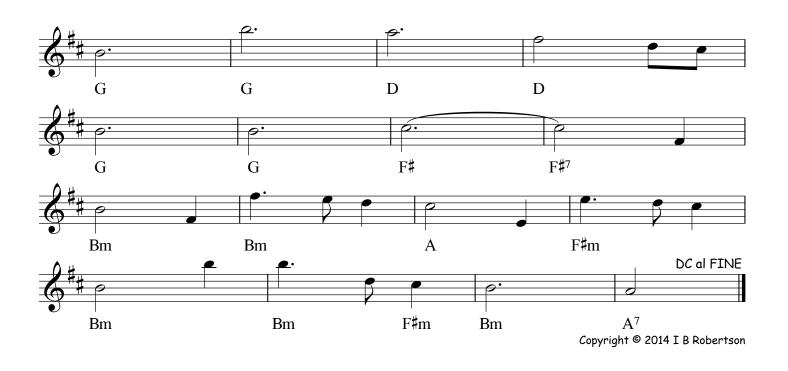


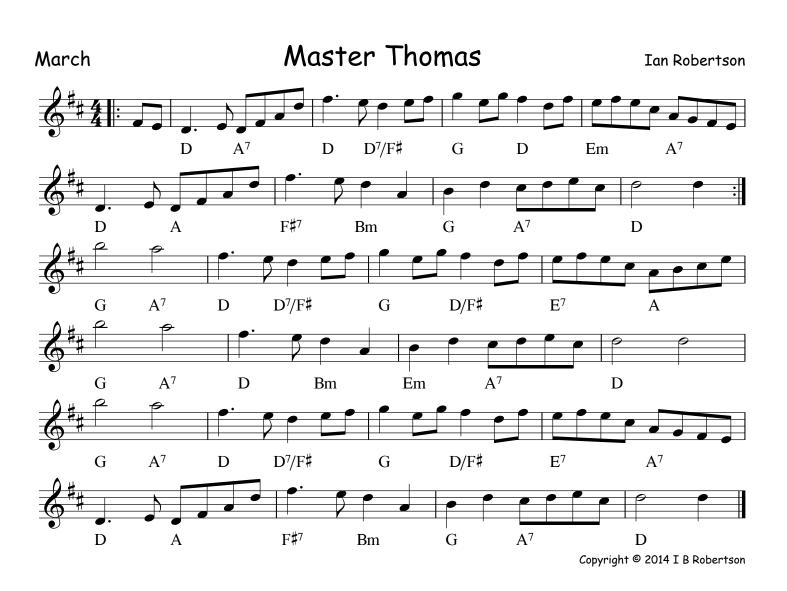




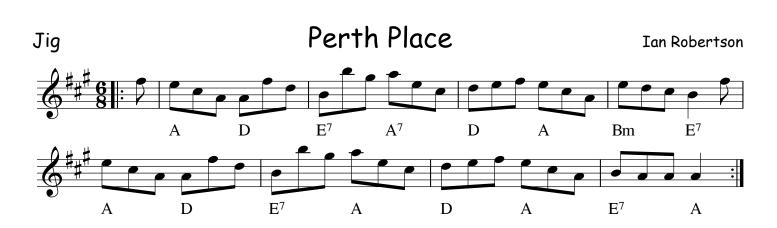


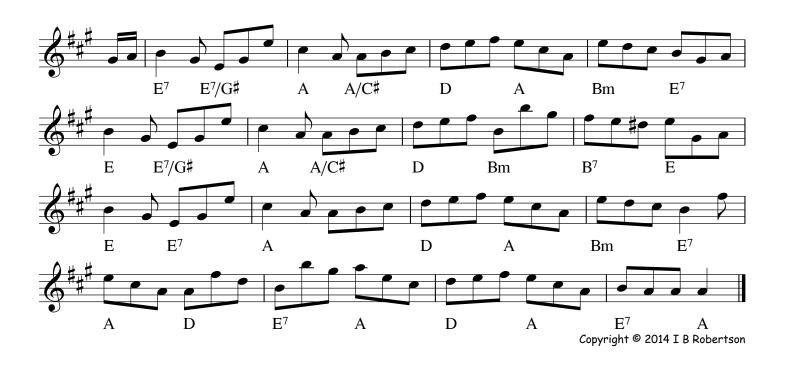


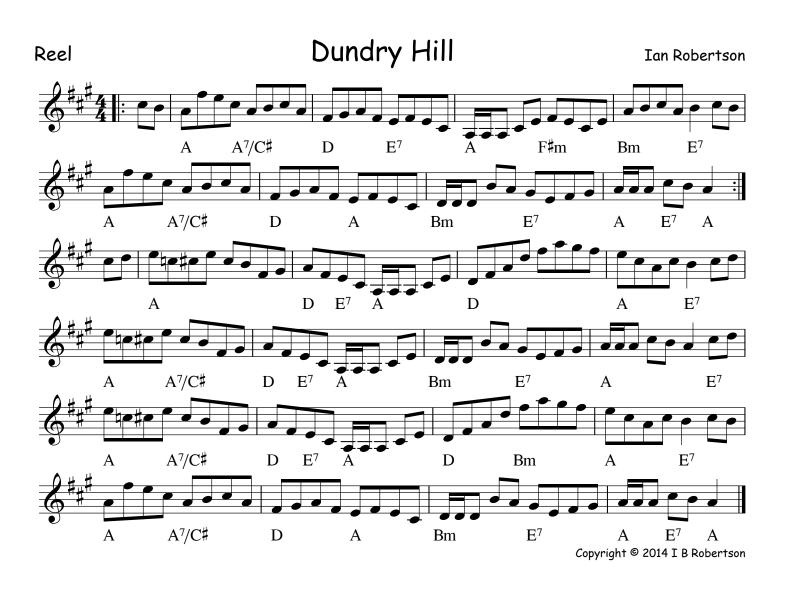




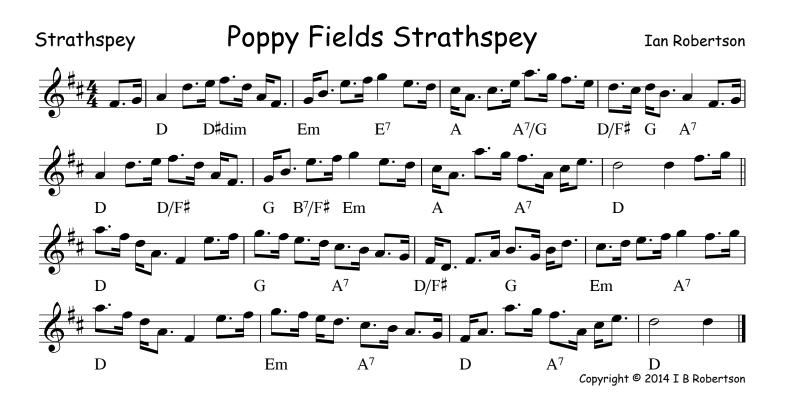


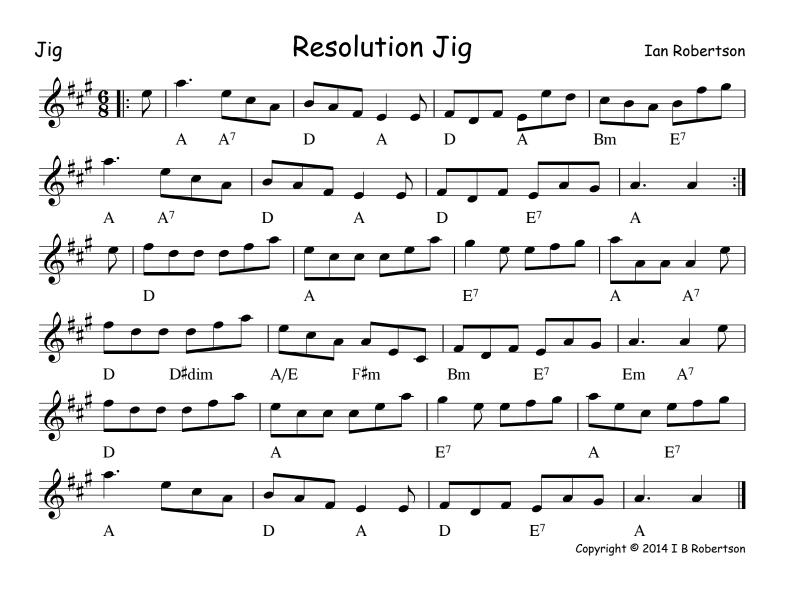






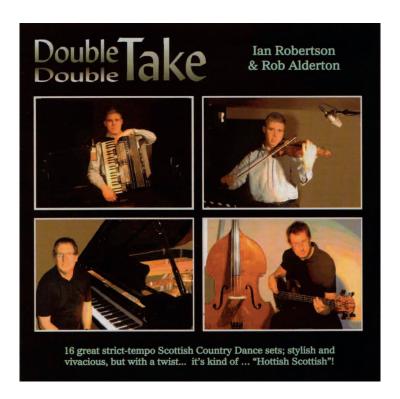








Life, Love & Loss Air Ian Robertson In memory of my father, Alan Breck Robertson (1938-2013) A/C# E/G#  $Bm^7$ A F#m A/E  $E^7$ D  $\dot{\mathbf{E}}^7$ A/C#  $E^7$ D A Bm A F#m C#m/G# A/E C#m  $E^7$ A  $Bm^7$ D A/C#  $A^7$ Bm  $A^{7}/C^{\#}$  $E^7$ D A A F#m D Bm  $Bm^7$ E F#m A  $Bm^7$  $E^7$ D D Bm F#m Bm  $\mathbf{B}^7$  $E^7$ E A D F#m A A Bm  $Bm^7$  $E^7$ A/C# E/G# F#m A/E A D  $Bm^7$  $E^7$ A/C#  $\dot{\mathbf{E}}^7$ Em A<sup>7</sup>/E Bm A D Copyright © 2014 I B Robertson





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