

Off to California

(Going to California, Humors of California, Whisky Hornpipe (The), Whiskey You're the Devil, Whiskey in the Jar (1), Portsmouth Hornpipe, Possum up a Gum Stump (1), Old Towser, Miss Johnson's Hornpipe, Gypsy Hornpipe (4), Buttermilk and Cider (Pa.), Fireman's Reel.)

The Fiddler's Companion says that;

The hornpipe probably has an Irish provenance, although the melody has been adopted by several genres. The first part combines with other parts for "Fireman's Reel," "I'm Waiting for You (2)," "Silver Cluster," "Five Miles Out of Town" and the Texas-collected "Mabel." A version from the North of England appears as "A Clog Dance" in Doyle's Plain Brown Tune Book, the modern publication of selections from the c. 1847 manuscript of Ellis Knowles, a musician from Radcliffe, Lancashire. Francis O'Neill also collected the tune in California in the mid-19th century.

Source for notated version: - Capt. Francis O'Neill learned this tune in the San Joaquin Valley of California when he was aged 19—presumably the title appealed to him in his circumstances, having left County Cork in his mid-teens [O'Neill/Irish Folk Music].

From The Session: *This tune has been recorded together with:*

The Liverpool(lots of times),
The Boys Of Bluehill(a few times),
The Plains Of Boyle(a few times),
The Rights Of Man(a few times) and
The Showman's Fancy(a few times).

A contributor to The Session posted:

As usual with hornpipes, this tune needs to be played with a certain bounce . If you overdo it, though, it'll just sound twee. The trick is to play it with a different emphasis than you would play a reel but without going completely over to the dotted rhythm that you see in so many transcriptions of hornpipes. I find the first part of this tune fairly bland but the second part has a nice cascading sound that I like.

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Hornpipe
AABBAB

trad. Irish - FF Version

The musical score is written for a Hornpipe in G major, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The piece is in the AABAB form. The notation includes various chords (G, D, C, Em, E, D) and triplets (indicated by a '3' over the notes). The score is divided into five systems, with measure numbers 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13 marked at the beginning of each system. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Playing Notes:

- none.