

Details

The Rakes Of Mallow

polka

Key signature: Gmajor

Submitted on May 25th 2001 by **Jeremy**.

This tune has been added to 336 tunebooks.

Also known as Balls Up, Galway Piper, High Could Cap, Jolly Sailor, La Pitoune, Mallow Fling, Na Racairide Ua Mag-Ealla, Piping Tim Of Galway, Rakes Of London, Rakes Of Mall, Rakes Of Mallow, Rakes Of Malta, Rakes Of Marlow, The Rakes Of Marlow, Rakes Of Mellow, The Rakes Of Mellow, Rigs O' Marlow, Rigs Of Marlow, Romping Molly, Tim's Reel, What A Bloody Balls Up.

Recordings of a tune by this name:

- **Aberdeen Folk Club 'A Celebration'** by Various Artists
- **An Irish Delight** by Flanagan Brothers
- **Dance Album** by The Bushwhackers Band
- **Dancing Through Ireland** by Various Artists
- **Farewell To Lissycasey: The Traditional Music Of County Clare** by Various Artists
- **Happy To Meet Sorry To Part** by Various Artists
- **I Feel My Heart Fly** by Darcy Nair
- **Irish Traditional Music Of County Clare** by Bernard O'Sullivan And Tommy McMahon
- **Merrily Kissed The Quaker** by The Blacksmiths
- **Paddy On The Railway** by Ten Penny Bit
- **Rince: Complete Irish Dancing Set - First Steps And Beyond** by Various Artists
- **Set Dances Of Ireland: Music For Listening And Dancing** by Various Artists
- **Shake Your Shamrocks** by Various Artists
- **Son Of Morris On** by Morris On
- **Strict Tempo: Scottish Country Dance Music From The 1950's, Volume 1** by Adam Rennie And His Scottish Country Dance Quartet
- **The Flowing Tide** by Chris Droney
- **The Square Triangle** by The Four Star Trio
- **The Tocane Concerts** by Various Artists
- **Traditional Irish Dance Music** by All Star Ceilidhe Band
- **Traditional Irish Dance Music: All Star Ceili Band** by Joe Derrane
- **Whistle O'er The Lave O't** by Alex Green

ABC

X: 1

T: Rakes Of Mallow, The

M: 2/4

L: 1/8

R: polka

K: Gmaj

|:GB GB|GB c/B/A/G/|FA FA|FA B/A/G/F/|

GB GB| GB d2|c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c| BG G2:|
|:gf ed| Bc d2| gf ed| Bc A2|
gf ed| Bc d2|c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c|BG G2:|

Sheetmusic



Comments

This tune is most often heard as part of a set dance, not just in Ireland, but in New England also.

I like to play this tune as if I were playing it for dancers. This means that ornamentation takes a back seat to keeping a steady rhythm.

I find it's nice to play the first part in a choppy manner.

It's nice to have percussive accompaniment to this tune, even if it's just your own foot beating time.

Posted on June 2nd 2001 by **Jeremy**

Lyrics for the Rakes....

Below are the lyrics for the Rakes of Mallow, supposed a traditional, Irish drinking song:

Beauing, belleing, dancing, drinking,
Breaking windows, cursing, sinking
Ever raking, never thinking,
Live the Rakes of Mallow;
Spending faster than it comes,
Beating waiters bailiffs, duns,
Bacchus' true begotten sons,
Live the Rakes of Mallow.

One time naught but claret drinking,
Then like politicians, thinking
To raise the "sinking funds" when sinking.
Live the Rakes of Mallow.
When at home, with da-da dying,
Still for mellow water crying;
But, where there's good claret plying
Live the Rakes of Mallow.

Racking tenants, stewards teasing,

Swiftly spending, slowly raising,
Wishing to spend all their days in
Raking as at Mallow.
Then to end this raking life,
They get sober, take a wife,
Ever after live in strife,
And wish again for Mallow.

Posted on August 5th 2002 by **Doc Lawlor**

Rakes of Mallow lyrics

I heard that sung by some "Mariners" (A fife corp) at a Fife & Drum Muster. It had some other verses which are far, far too dirty to even imagine posting in this forum. Unfortunatly I don't remember them because I was laughing too hard. Gives the tune something of a lift & a giggle to boot.

Posted on August 5th 2002 by **Mad Baloney**

I play this at 18th Century Rendezvous along with Road to Boston.
Does anyone have a timeline on either? It was background music for a PBS TV series called Sharp's Rifles a few years ago, where it was used as a march.

Posted on January 23rd 2004 by **wvwhistler**

I've grown up around traditional morris dance music, I knew this song sounded so familiar, so it makes sense about the new england thing

Posted on February 27th 2005 by **banana512**

I have also heard this played in a 'march' way. There were specific dances that were danced to this tune, solo, couple and group... The earliest time base I can take it back to, from living memory, is the late 1800s in Eire/Ireland... I'll see if I can find any notations for dance...and possibly older printed sources.

Posted on May 16th 2005 by **ceolachan**

Road to Boston

Road to Boston is a fife tune which I have been told was played by General Greene's troops as they marched north from Rhode Island to help our colonial brethren up in Boston during the Revolutionary War.

Posted on February 8th 2006 by **AIBrown**

A La Bolduc song

the second part of this polka is used as the verse-tune for La Bolduc(the great , eternal, French singing, Canadian MusicHall artist of the 'entre-deux-guerre' period)'s '(Hourrah) pour la Pitchoune' or "Elle joue du Banjo"

Posted on October 4th 2006 by **birlibirdie**

La Pitoune

The tune for the verses of this song is based on the 2d part of this polka.
Its chorus and lyrics where penned by Mary Travers (aka La Bolduc) c.1930 it seems.
Have a peep at its double-entendres at: <http://www.frmusique.ru/texts/b/bolduc/pitoune.htm>

Posted on November 14th 2006 by **birlibirdie**

Gael Force

I just heard a Gael Force rendition of this on bagpipes with awesome guitar and heavy percussion. Very cool.

Posted on November 26th 2006 by **Ben314**

This tune is played a lot in the film The Quiet Man starring John Wayne

Posted on September 6th 2008 by **upmine3**

Hi

hi i have grown up with this sort of music all my life, im a dancer, and now am learning it on the fiddle have you got any tips to help me with this tune 😊

Posted on October 16th 2008 by **folkiefreek**

Try avoiding it like the plague, and everyone will think you're fantastic.

Posted on October 16th 2008 by **Dr. Dow**

It is what it is... 😊

Have fun with it. In dear Ireland there wasn't a county, musician or ceili band I came across that didn't have this tune as part of their repertoire ~ and able to get some pleasure out of playing it. There are some in amongst the 'new breeds' that frown on such tunes and choose to ignore them, avoid them. Hey, it's a free world, they can suck on a pint if any of those tunes they consider naff or dag happen to find air at a session they're party to... The silliness in them is part of their charm, but some people take this music far too seriously...

Outside of Ireland too ~ Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, England, Denmark, South Africa, Canada, the U.S.A. ~ this little number and various dances that became associated with it ~ spread. It has been used for solo stepping and for sets ~ all sorts of dances and dancing ~ big circle, sicilian, longways, contras, squares, 4-hand, couple, etc... I've had the pleasure of playing it with a slew of different folks and for a slew of different dances, and we always had fun with it, as did the dancers, who quickly took it to heart and could be heard to hum or lilt it after having danced to it...

I'll have to remember to add a different take or two of this melody to the comments here. If I forget ~ remind me... 😊

Posted on October 17th 2008 by **ceolachan**

"The Rakes of Mallow"

X: 23

T: Rakes Of Mallow, The

M: 2/4

L: 1/8

R: polka

K: Gmaj

|: D \

GB GB | GB c/B/A/G/ |FA FA | FA d/c/B/A/ |

GB GB | GB d>B | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG G :|

|: d \

gf/e/ dc | Bc d2 | gf/e/ dB | ce A2 |
gf/e/ dc | B>c dB | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG G :|
|: D |\nGB GB/B/ | G>B c/B/A/G/ |FA F/G/A/G/ | FA D2 |
G>B GB/B/ | G/A/B/c/ d>B | cA F/A/d/c/ | BG G :|
|: d |\n
gf/e/ d>c | Bc dB/d/ | gf/e/ dc | Bd Ad |
gf/e/ d2 | B>c d2 | cA F/A/d/c/ | BG G :|

& K: Dmaj ~ |: df df | df g/f/e/d/ | ~

& K: Amaj ~ |: Ac Ac | Ac d/c/B/A/ | ~

Posted on October 17th 2008 by **ceolachan**

"The Rakes of Mallow" ~ come on all you rakes out there, contribute!!!

There must be an endless number of different takes on this tune in circulation out there. Let's see some of them, please?!

I love it how with this tune the one name stuck and spread with the dissemination of the melody, wherever... While some very popular tunes have ended up with a slew of different names, often because lyrics were easily fitted to them, like "Shoe the Donkey", this very popular number tended to be known by the one name pretty much, "The Rakes of Mallow", even where languages other than English were the native tongue...

Posted on October 17th 2008 by **ceolachan**

Mallow Fling

From the recorder lessons of my son:

T:Mallow Fling

M:4/4

L:1/8

K:G

|G2 B2 G2 B2|G2 B2 cBAG|F2 A2 F2 A2|F2A2 BAGF|

G2 B2 G2 B2|G2B2 d2 d2|cBAG FGAB |G4 G2 z2|

g2 fe d2 c2|B2 c2 d4 |g2 FE d2 c2|Bc d2 A4|

g2 fe d2 c2|B2 c2 d4 |cBAG FGAB |G4 G2 z2|

Posted on January 9th 2009 by **swisspiper**

Interesting take, but there's no way this sits well as a 'fling'. Was it this way in a book? ~ or was it just a name the recorder teacher chose to give it? I've just corrected a small part of it, but was this a version where the parts repeated or not?

X: 3

T: Mallow Fling

M: 4/4

L: 1/8

R: polka, reel, march

K: G

G2 B2 G2 B2 | G2 B2 cBAG | F2 A2 F2 A2 | F2 A2 BAGF |

G2 B2 G2 B2 | G2 B2 d2 d2 | cBAG FGAB | G4 G2 z2 ||

g2 fe d2 c2 | B2 c2 d4 | g2 fe d2 c2 | Bc d2 A4 |
g2 fe d2 c2 | B2 c2 d4 | cBAG FGAB | G4 G2 z2 ||

Posted on March 22nd 2010 by **ceolachan**

"Rakes of Mallow" & Kerr's

"Kerr's Third Collection of Merry Melodies"
Page 41, tune #371 ~ "Rakes of Mallow"

X: 3
T: Rakes of Mallow
B: Kerr's Third Collection of Merry Melodies, page 41, tune #371
M: 2/4
L: 1/8
R: country dance
K: GMaj
|: GB GB | GB c/B/A/G/ | FA FA | FA d/c/B/A/ |
GB GB | GB d>B | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG Gz :|
|: gf/e/ dc | Bc d2 | gf/e/ dc | Bg A2 |
gf/e/ dc | Bc d2 | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG Gz :|

R: polka, reel, march, country dance...

Posted on March 22nd 2010 by **ceolachan**

"The Rakes of Mallow" & O'Neill

X: 5
T: Rakes of Mallow, The
S: O'Neill's Music of Ireland, 1903, page 341, tune #1814
M: 2/4
L: 1/8
R: march
K: GMaj
.G.B .G.B | .G.B c/B/A/G/ | .F.A .F.A | .F.A d/c/B/A/ |
.G.B .G.B | .G.B .d.B | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG Gz |
G/B/B/B/ G/B/B/B/ | G/B/B/B/ c/B/A/G/ | F/A/A/A/ F/A/A/A/ | F/A/A/A/ d/c/B/A/ |
G/B/B/B/ G/B/B/B/ | G/B/B/B/ dB | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG Gz ||
gf/e/ .d.c | .B.c .d.B | gf/e/ .d.c | .B.e Az |
gf/e/ .d.c | .B.c .d.B | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG Gz |
gf/e/ d/e/d/c/ | B/A/B/c/ d/c/B/c/ | gf/e/ d/e/d/c/ | B/A/B/e/ AB/d/ |
gf/e/ d/e/d/c/ | B/A/B/c/ d/c/B/c/ | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG Gz ||

Dots to be found here ~

<http://www.celtic-sheet-music.com/>

<http://www.celtic-sheet-music.com/musicofireland.html>

<http://www.celtic-sheet-music.com/oneills/TheRakesOfMallow.pdf>

Posted on March 23rd 2010 by **ceolachan**

"The Rakes of Mallow" & "Allen's Irish Fiddler"

3rd tune in a set of three for the longways dance "The Walls of Limerick"

Page 31 ~ #119

X: 6

T: Rakes of Mallow, The

S: Allen's Irish Fiddler

M: 2/4

L: 1/8

R: march

K: GMaj

|: GB GB | GB c/B/A/G/ | FA FA | FA d/c/B/A/ |
GB GB | GB d2 | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG G2 :|
|: gf/e/ dc | B/A/B/c/ d2 | gf/e/ dc | B/A/B/c/ A2 |
gf/e/ dc | B/A/B/c/ d2 | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG G2 :|

Posted on March 23rd 2010 by **ceolachan**

"Allen's Irish Fiddler"

<http://www.oldmusicproject.com/>

<http://www.oldmusicproject.com/allans.html>

Posted on March 23rd 2010 by **ceolachan**

"The Rakes of Mallow" ~ Johnny Doherty

~ the tune used for "Sir Roger", the dance...

I try to give some of the variations Johnny Doherty gave in playing the tune by writing out the repeats, AABB ~

X: 7

T: Rakes Of Mallow, The

S: Johnny Doherty, as heard on RTE radio

M: 2/4

L: 1/8

R: polka

K: Gmaj

(3D/E/F/ | \

GB GB | GB c/B/A/G/ | FA DA | DA A/G/F/A/ |
GB DB | GB d>B | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG G>D |
GB GB | GB c/B/A/G/ | FA DA | FA d/c/B/A/ |
GB DB | GB d>B | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG G ||
f/a/ | \
gf/e/ dd/c/ | Bc de/f/ | gf/e/ dc/B/ | eA Af/a/ |
gf/e/ dd/c/ | Bc dB/d/ | c/B/A/G/ F/G/A/c/ | BG Gf/a/ |
gf/e/ dd/c/ | Bc de/f/ | gf/e/ dc/B/ | eA Af/f/ |
gf/e/ dd/c/ | Bg dB/d/ | c/B/A/G/ F/e/d/c/ | BG G ||

Posted on March 23rd 2010 by **ceolachan**

Early wire strung harp music published by Thumoth, 1742

"The Rakes Of Mallow" was published in Burk Thumoth's book, "Twelve Scotch and Twelve Irish Airs", c. 1742, subtitled "With Variations, set for the German Flute, Violin or Harpsichord by Mr Burk Thumoth". This is likely to have originally been part of the early wire strung harp repertoire. See:

<http://www.earlygaelicharp.info/sources/thumoth.htm>

<http://www.pipers.ie/imco/BTEISA.HTM>

<http://www.pipers.ie/imco/BTEISA47-TheRakesofMallow.HTM>

Posted on May 19th 2010 by **Brent Allpress**

It's been used to teach litl' dancing girl their 'seven's'.

Posted on June 15th 2010 by **birlibirdie**

There's a reference here (1-29) :

<http://www.mtrecords.co.uk/articles/summers.htm> to it being used in Yorkshire for the dance 'Ninepins'.

Posted on June 15th 2010 by **birlibirdie**

I like to play the ending as |d/e/d/c/ B/C/B/A/ | BG G2 | but that's just the version I picked up by whistling it!

Posted on August 25th 2010 by **the wounded hussar**

Also good in D

I like to play this in D on a D whistle; shifting it up a few keys makes the fingering slightly easier to do at speed and you get that wonderful piercing top D starting the downwards run in the B part.

This tune is just ubiquitous in Scottish Country Dancing; I don't think I went to a ceilidh or school dance in my youth when this didn't pop up somewhere.

Posted on December 9th 2010 by **Red Menace**
