

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

"C" Tunes

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CAMEL'S HUMP (reel)

© BB

E B \flat E B \flat E
 E B \flat E B \flat E
 E Am E Am
 E Am E F Bdim E

My idea of combining two musical cultures (reflecting my mixed heritage) into 32 glorious measures! Certain musicians who will be referred to here only as "Jerry O" and "Skip H" have actually played this, for reasons best known to themselves. But my gratitude is boundless. (Note that chords are subject to the backup player's personal interpretation - ones you see here won't be in the playback file.)

CANAL BRIDGES (jig)

© BB 2016

Bm D A Bm D
 Bm D A Bm A Bm
 Bm D A7 Bm F#m Bm
 Bm A7 D A Bm

Since June 2014 we have lived along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal - between the Railroad Bridge and the Bourne Bridge - and we're enjoying it thoroughly. To watch the tides and currents of the Canal in their daily rhythms is to understand the meaning of James Joyce's reference to the "ever-changing never-changing" nature of the sea. The two elderly highway bridges spanning the Canal will be replaced within the next ten years (or so they say) - hope we're around to see the new ones! (Reality check: dubious)

CANALSIDE WALTZ

© BB Jan 2019

D F#m D G D G A
 D Bm Em7 A D A A7 D
 Bm Bm A A
 D F#m Bm G D F#m A7 D

This is the instrumental portion of "The Cape Cod Canal Shantata" that I wrote for the New Bedford Sea Shanty Chorus.

CAPE COD HORNSPIPE

© BB

The musical score for 'CAPE COD HORNSPIPE' is presented as a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in common time. The piece is divided into several sections, each with its own key signature and chord progression. The first section is in A major (one sharp) and features chords A, F#m, A, F#m, A, and Bm. The second section is in D major (two sharps) with chords A, F#m, A, F#m, E, and A. The third section is in F major (one sharp) with chords Dm, F, Am, F, Am, and Dm. The fourth section is in C major (no sharps or flats) with chords Dm, C, Gm, F, C, and Dm. The fifth section is in G minor (two flats) with chords Gm, Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm, F, and Gm. The sixth section is in F major (one sharp) with chords Gm, F, Bb, F, and Gm. The seventh section is in D major (two sharps) with chords D, Bm, D, Bm, D, and Em. The eighth section is in A major (one sharp) with chords D, Bm, D, Bm, A, and D. The final section is in A major (one sharp) with chords D, Bm, A, and D. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and a triplet in the first section.

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I don't do many multiple-part tunes so I hope you'll forgive me for this one! Also hope the key changes work for you.

CAROL & SID'S WALTZ

The Pinebrook Waltz

© BB 2/21

E A A E D A F#m7 E

A E D A Bm A D E A

A F#m E F#m D A Bm F#m

E A A E A Bm E 1 A 2 A

An "anniversary" waltz for our niece Carol and her husband Sid, celebrating forty years of domestic bliss in 2022. It doesn't make Pat and I feel any younger to recall that Carol was flower girl at our wedding . . .(By the way each of their kids - Steven, Jennie, and Emma - has his or her own tune in this collection. And their kids too!)

CAROLINE'S FANCY (polka)

© BB

<<

For Caroline Doherty Roddy, a good friend and a very talented lady, known and loved in the Boston area and beyond.

CASH IN HAND (jig)

© BB 2006

F#m A D E A D E
 F#m A D A Bm E A
 A D E A D A E
 A D E A Bm A E A

<<

To commemorate a musician's favorite form of compensation.

CASTLE VIEW (jig)

© BB

Am Em G Am G Em Am

Am Em G Am G F Em Am

<< Am Em G D Am G Am

Am Em G Am G F Em Am

So you pay good money to stay at this B&B and then the "castle" is nowhere to be seen - what's up with that?

CHALK & CHEESE (reel)

© BB

D Em E A D Bm Em7 A

D Em E A D G A D

D E A D Bm Em A

D Bm A D Em A D

Dedicated with great love to our two fine sons Tedd and Chris, who bear no physical resemblance to one another - like "chalk and cheese" as the Irish expression goes!

CHAMBERS of MELODY (jig)

© BB 12/06

Em Em G Em Bm D

Em C D Em G D Em Em

Em Em G D G D

Em Em C D Em

Dedicated to Boston musician and computer tech John Chambers, responsible for the great "TuneFinder" program that has been so helpful to so many musicians over the years.

CHATHAM LIGHT JIG

© BB 2013

Am C G Am G Am Em

Am Em Am G C Am

C C Am Em Am Em G

Am G Am G C Am

Cape Cod's Chatham Light is one of the oldest and most important lighthouses on the US East Coast. It's been in the same spot since 1808 (more or less - they've moved it further inland a few times due to beach erosion). It seems pretty happy where it is now. Long may it shine!

CHENANGO COUNTY HORNPIPE

© BB 2007

A D E Bm E
 A D E Bm E7 A
 A Bm F#m E D
 A Bm C#m7 D E7 A

Chenango County is in the "southern tier" of New York State, east of Binghamton and southwest of Albany. It's lovely hilly farm country dotted with small towns. My mom's family were from the Afton - Nineveh part of the county, right on the "banks of the fair Susquehanna" that someone once wrote a song about.

CHICKEN in the BUCKET (jig)

© BB 2007

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords G, Am, G, C, G, Em, and D. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords G, Am, G, C, D, G, D7, and G. The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords Em, Am, Em, D, C, Am, and D. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords G, Am, D, C, G, Am, D, and G. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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Our piper friend Colin showed up for a gig on Martha's Vineyard carrying - in addition to his pipes, of course - a huge bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken plus all the trimmings. He explained that since the island's locals aren't crazy about fast-food chains, his in-laws who live there asked him to "import" some KFC from the "other side". Being a dutiful son-in-law, he did so, but handling a pipe case and a load of fried chicken on the ferry was more of a challenge than he thought! (We offered to help, but I don't think he trusted us with the goodies!)

CHIPMUNK'S HOUSE (jig)

© BB

D Em A D Bm
 D Em A D
 D Em A E A7
 D Em A7 D

There was a colony (pod? flock? gaggle?) of chipmunks (aka "timber tigers") living near our house in Falmouth that we always had fun watching. They're feisty little critters who occasionally show signs of a sense of humor. Watching them scoot around on their mysterious errands can really brighten a day!

CHRISTINA REID'S (jig)

© BB

A Bm A D A Bm A E

A Bm A D A D E A

A D A F#m D A E

A D A F#m Bm E A

Named with love for my wife's aunt, one of the "angels of Dublin" - as the saying goes, their like will not be seen again.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MAHERS' (slip jig)

© BB

G D G G D Am
 G D G C D G
 G C G G C Am
 G Am Em G D G

Fiddler and dance teacher Aidan Maher and his lovely wife Gerry are transplanted Dubliners now living in the Boston area. Aidan happens to like slip jigs and is never shy about playing a few at a session! Their annual Christmas party was always well attended and always a lot of fun.

CHRISTMAS in JULY (reel)

© BB

D Em Bm G A
 D Em D G A D
 D A7 D Em Bm A D Bm
 D A7 D A Bm A7 D

<<

When you've been waiting for someone for a long time, and then she finally arrives, it's Christmas regardless of what the calendar says!

CLARA MOUNTAIN (slide)

© BB

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has chords D and Em. The second staff has chords D, A, Bm, and a first ending with G and A, followed by a second ending with G, A, and D. The third staff has chords Bm, A, Bm, Em, and A. The fourth staff has chords Bm, A, D, Em, A, and D. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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Clara Mountain overlooks Millstreet, a pleasant little town on the Cork side of the Sliabh Luachra area well-known to traditional music lovers for its great players of slides and polkas.

CLASSICAL HORNPIPE

© BB

Dm C Dm Am F Dm C7
 Dm C F Dm Gm Dm
 F Gm Am Dm7 Am Dm
 F Gm Am Dm7 Gm Dm C Dm

Another tune inspired by that great movie "Amadeus". It may not be the "Magic Flute" but hey - it's catchy in its own way and the kids can dance to it (as they used to say on the Dick Clark Show, you youngsters wouldn't remember that). (Upper notes in mm 2 and 3 are for treble instruments.)

CLOSE the DOOR BEHIND YOU! (reel)

© BB 2009

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, written in a key with one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily eighth-note based. Chords are indicated above the staff: Dm, C, Am7, and Dm. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth staff.

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Inspired by a sign I spotted at the old Cape Cod Irish Village. I thought it would make a good tune name, along the lines of one of the reel titles in the O'Neill collections.

COOGAN'S BARN (hornpipe)

© BB

G G C D G Em Am D
 G G C D G D G
 G Em Am A D Am D
 G Em Am A D G

This tune - which is intended to be played as a barn dance - was composed in honor of box player, session meister, IRTRAD poster, and all-around great guy Jim Coogan, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day in 2007.

COTTAGE at LARRAGA (hornpipe)

© BB

Em Am D G D G C D

Em Am D G D G Am D G

Em D Em G Em G D

Em D G D G Em

For many years, Mike and Terry Rafferty would tear themselves away from New Jersey's notorious summer weather to spend a month or so in Ballinakill, Mike's home town in Galway. (Larraga is a "suburb" of Ballinakill.) Not surprisingly, there always seemed to be plenty of musicians around when the Raffs were there! Mike's been gone for a few years now but the sessions in "The Hill" and other venues in the vicinity are legendary!

COUSIN MIKE'S (jig)

© BB

G C G C G Am G Em
 G C G C G D7 G G
 Em D
 G C G C G D7 G G

This tune was composed for "another" Michael Rafferty - not the late great New Jersey flute player - who is also from Ballinakill in Galway. I'm not sure how this Mike is related to "our" Mike (i.e. the flute player), but I figure "cousin" is probably close!

COUSINS (The) (reel)

© BB

A A F#m Bm A F#m A E

A A F#m E A E7 A

A F#m A F#m D E

A F#m A D E7 A

Named for a group of - what else? - cousins. I didn't have any close ones when I was a kid but my Dublin wife had loads of them. Since she seems to consider it a positive experience - and the ones I've met are all great folks - I have dedicated this tune to the Reid family of Dublin!

COW BEHIND the FENCE (polka)

© BB

D Bm D Bm
 D Bm Em D A D
 A A A G A
 A A D G D
 D D A G A
 D D A D D

There's a very long story that goes with this tune involving musicians interacting with a cow - a Kerry cow, as a matter of fact. I'm working on a novel right now called "The Midnight Moo". It's very gothic. I'd be happy to share the details with anyone interested! Anyone? ANYONE??

CRANBERRY BOG (reel)

© BB

The musical score for "Cranberry Bog (reel)" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a repeat sign. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, C, Bm, Em, G, D. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, C, D, C, G, and includes a first ending bracket with chords D7 and G, and a second ending bracket with chords D7 and G. The third staff continues with chords G, D, C, G, Am, D, and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords G, Am, G, C, G, and includes first and second ending brackets with chords D7 and G. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of the piece. A double less-than sign (<<) is positioned to the left of the fourth staff.

There are a number of cranberry bogs here on Cape Cod which produce acres and acres of dark red fruit that can be used for all sorts of great things. A recent description of a cranberry as "a cherry that doesn't like you" is not entirely accurate but their tartness is definitely an "acquired taste"! Try a cranberry juice and soda for a great (non-alcoholic) summer drink (cj and vodka = a "Cape Codder" - also very pleasant).

CRASHING at MIKE'S (reel)

© BB

A D Bm Em Bm D Em
 A D Bm G D A D
 Bm Bm7 G A Bm Bm D A D
 Bm Bm7 G A Bm A7 D A D

The Mike referred to is a Boston musician whose apartment years ago (when he was still single) was open to anyone needing a place to stay. Only 637 people knew where the key was hidden (but you were out of luck if you didn't know what a geranium looked like).

CROAGH PATRICK (reel)

© BB 2006

G Am C D7 G Am Em D
 G Em C D7 G Am7 D G
 D7 Am7 D G Em G D Em
 G Am G D7 G Am7 D7 G

<<

According to tradition, Croagh Patrick is the mountain in Co. Mayo that St. Patrick often visited for prayer and contemplation. It's a lovely spot, and even now continues to be a place of pilgrimage for locals and visitors alike.