

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

"H" Tunes

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HANLEY'S HOUSE OF HAPPINESS (reel)

BB 12/24

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

<<

This tune is named after a Chicago music pub highly spoken of by Jimmy Keane in the liner notes to "Horse", his combination memoir/tune book that he so kindly shared with me. As an East Coast type I confess to knowing not much about Chicago pubs, but I couldn't resist the opportunity of writing a tune with this name. I have to ask him whether the pub is still around!

The HA'PENNY BRIDGE (reel)

© BB

G Em G C G D

G Em G C D G

G Em C G D G Em D

G Em C G G Am D G

The graceful Ha'penny Bridge (a/k/a Metal Bridge or - God help us - Wellington Bridge) is one of the landmarks of Dublin, beloved by tourists and locals alike. In the old days you would throw a half-penny coin ("ha'penny") off it for good luck. Not sure what you'd throw these days - maybe better to avoid throwing anything!

HALFWAY to KERRY (slide)

© BB

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

<<

As the late Johnny Cronin might have said, If you're halfway to Kerry, you might as well keep going! My salute to the great people of "the Kingdom" and their wonderful energetic music.

The HAPPY HAMSTER (jig)

© BB

D Am D C D Am7
 D Am D Am7 D A7 D
 D Bm7 D C Am7 C Am
 D Bm C Am D A7 D

Unless you have had a serious relationship with a hamster (or "cricetus aureatus" as preferred by those of us with classical training), you may never be able to appreciate the subtle qualities of this tune, or the fact that the Angel In Charge of Diminutive Rodents has a sense of humor. Unfortunately hamsters don't enjoy a long life span, especially if there's a "felis felis" (cat) in the family.

The HAPPY VALLEY Jig

© BB 2006

A Bm G D

A Bm G A D

A Bm G D

A Bm G A D

<<

For what it's worth, I came up with this tune during the Orange Bowl game in January 2006, won by Penn State. "Happy Valley" is the nickname of the Penn State campus, located in a lovely part of central Pennsylvania. (And by such devious means do tunes find their names. . .)

HARRY'S GREEN SOCKS (reel)

© BB

D Bm F#m D Bm Bm7

D G Bm A7 D Em D A D

D G D Bm G D Bm7 A7

D G D Bm G A D A D

In my humble opinion, nobody who wears green socks can be all bad (UNLESS he/she wears them in public, with shorts and/or sandals, at which point the harshest measures must be taken by the Good Taste Police, who seem to be everywhere these days) .

The HERRING RUN REEL

© BB 2016

D Em Am D C Em

D Am D C D C D Am D

D C D Am Am7

D C D Am D Am D

In several locations around Cape Cod there are herring runs, through which the fish travel on their ancient journey between the sea and fresh water. When the time comes in the Spring, good folks are on hand at each run to protect the herring as they leave the sea to spawn. Eventually the youngsters will head out to sea again to begin the process anew in the following year.

HIGH IN THE REEKS (polka)

© BB

Em Bm G D Bm

Em Bm G D Em

Bm C Em G D Bm

Em D G D Em

McGillicuddy's Reeks in Kerry include Carrantuohill, the highest mountain in Ireland (3407 ft.) The ride through Tim Healy Pass in the Reeks can be a real adventure - we did it twice, once in fine weather (gorgeous) and once in the middle of the clouds (scary - fortunately no sheep were harmed in the making of that vacation).

HIGHFIELD HALL (reel)

© BB 2008

Em Em Bm Bm

Em Em D C G Am D Em

Em D C Am B

Em D Am Em B7 Em

A lovely restored mansion in Falmouth, formerly home of the Beebe family, great benefactors of the town in days past. It's now a visitor center and venue for concerts, art shows, and so forth.

HOLD the FRIES! (jig)

© BB 2006

Chord symbols for the first staff: G, D, G, F, Dm

Chord symbols for the second staff: G, D, G, F, G

Chord symbols for the third staff: C, Am7, G, F, C, G

Chord symbols for the fourth staff: C, Am7, G, F, Dm, G

<<

We know we should say the title words a lot, but we don't. Do broccoli and cauliflower (yuck) really make us happier and/or healthier? What the heck are those "triglycerides" anyway? Do nachos have any food value at all? Are triple-glazed chocolate doughnuts really nature's perfect food? I NEED ANSWERS!! - (While I'm waiting, you can double-size that order. . .)

HOME to MULLACH (jig)

© BB

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

Mullach is a little town north of Miltown Malbay on the Clare coast. I was honored to be part of a session there a while back. I'll always remember the seamless transition from "Humors of Tulla" into "The Soldier's Song" (the Irish national anthem) after the local gárda stopped in around 1 a.m. to suggest - very politely but firmly - that we all might want to think about packing our tools away and returning to our respective dwellings. We did so without a word of complaint.

HORACE'S TWENTY (hornpipe)

© BB 2016

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

G Am Em G D Em C G D G

C G C G C G A D

G Am G D C D Em G Am Em7 D G

The "Horace" of the title is Horace Thayer, husband of Martha, a fine fiddler and one of our Cape Cod session regulars. Horace has been doing the Project Bread "Walk for Hunger" for forty years. The walk is about twenty miles (hence the other word in the title) and Horace and his colleagues do it rain or shine. Over the years we have raised a few dollars for Horace (by playing tunes, not actually walking, which is too much like exercise for the average musician).

The HOUSE DOWN the STREET (jig)

© BB

G Bm7 C G Em7 D
 G C D G D G G
 Em G G C G Em
 G Am7 D G Am6 D G

Some friends of ours recently became house owners for the first time - a little scary because they had previously both been apartment people, and of course there's a world of difference in the two lifestyles (e.g., no superintendent to call when something goes wrong). But at last report the new homeowners were getting along fine (more or less)!

HUGH SMITH'S FAREWELL (reel)

© BB

Am C Em G G

Am C Em Am7 G Em G Am

Am Am7 Am G Em G

Am Am7 Am G Em G Am

In memory of Tony Smith's brother Hugh, who played a pivotal role for many years in energizing traditional music in the NY area.

The HUMORS of CUTTYHUNK (reel)

© BB 2006

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

Cuttyhunk is a tiny island that sits off the southwestern tip of Cape Cod. It reminds us of Connemara - stone walls, green fields, and the ocean close by. It's mostly for summer residents and visiting fishermen, but a few hardy souls live there full time (and commute to the mainland by a long ferry trip, which can really be an adventure in the wintertime!)

HUMORS of KANGI(QTURURSIQ) (hornpipe)

Tune 1 of "The Baffin Island Suite"

© BB 2009

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

The "Baffin Island Suite" consists of this tune ("Humors of Kangi" for short) and two others ("Stevie's Boat" and "Bears of Baffin") that were composed to commemorate our good friend and fellow musician Dave MacAdam's yearly trip way up north to Baffin Island. Dave made these trips for many years and has assembled a great collection of friends and memories (and photos).

The HUMORS of LANACANE (jig)

© BB

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time, written in a key with one flat (B-flat). The chords for each staff are as follows:

- Staff 1: Dm, G, Edim, Dm, F, Am, Bb, A7
- Staff 2: Dm, A, Dm, Bb, Dm, C, Dm
- Staff 3: F, C, Dm, C7, Gm, F, C
- Staff 4: Dm, A, Dm, F, Am, C7, Dm

The score includes repeat signs at the end of the second and fourth staves. A double less-than sign (<<) is positioned to the left of the third staff.

The fruit bat breeding center of Ireland. It's somewhere in the southeast. Or maybe the northwest. In any case probably not worth going out of your way to visit, despite what the local tourism boosters would have you believe. Of course, the chance to have a pint with the reigning "Fruit Bat Queen" might be too much to pass up. . .

The HUMORS of PLUMBRIDGE (jig)

© BB

G Am G Em D7
 G Am7 G Am D G
 Em D C Em7 G Am
 G C D Em G Am D G

<<

Plumbridge is a little town in the northwest corner of Co. Tyrone that's very special to some good friends!

HUSSEY'S PENGUIN (reel)

© BB

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

The Shackleton Expedition to the South Pole in 1909 included a young man named Hussey. For reasons best known to himself, Mr. Hussey brought his banjo along, and he is responsible for the discovery that the sound of the banjo playing Irish music would attract penguins, while other types of "Celtic" music repelled them (no kidding!) . Penguinologists and musicologists have been unable to make much sense of this (although Irish trad musicians might have their own theories). But - as they say - the research continues.