

# BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

"U to Y" tunes

## Table of Contents

UNCLE PAT'S HORNPIPE  
VALLEY ROAD (jig), The  
VIRTUOSO (reel), The  
VOYAGE SOUTH (reel), The  
WALKIN' the PUPS (jig)  
WALTZING ARMADILLO (jig), The  
WHALING CITY (reel), The  
WHELAN'S FROLIC (jig)  
WHERE CAN SHE BE OFF TO? (fling)  
WHITE BULL (polka), The  
WHITE LIGHTNING, MY ASS! (jig)  
WINTER MORNING (reel), A  
WOODS HOLE FISHERMAN (reel), The  
YONKERS PIPER (reel), The  
YOUNG BOSTONIANS (reel), The

# UNCLE PAT'S HORNPIPE

© B.Black 10/21

1 Bm Bm D A G A

2 Bm G D Em A7 D Em A7 D

Bm D G A G A

Bm D G D Em A D

"Uncle Pat" is Pat Clancy, piano-accordionist and singer from Charlemont, Co. Armagh, who passed away in October 2021 at the age of 89. He leaves a large loving family behind, including his niece, Cape Cod's own Rose Clancy. May he rest in peace.

## The VALLEY ROAD (jig)

© BB 2011

Am Am G G

Am C Em Am G Am

Am Am7 Am Em G G

Am Am7 Am G Em G Am

Just when you think that everything is asphalt and shopping malls, it's nice to be surprised by an old-fashioned two-lane country road running through actual farmland (with real cows!) in the Boston - Providence 'corridor'. You have to wonder how long such a pastoral scene will survive . . . This tune was composed a while back, so everything has probably changed by now. If I remembered where it was, I'd go back and check! (Or maybe I've already been back there and didn't recognize it!)

The VIRTUOSO (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'The Virtuoso' 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 and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is primarily eighth-note based. Chords are indicated above the staff: Bm, G, A7, Bm, D, A, Bm. The second staff continues the melody with ornaments (tilde symbols) over the first two notes. Chords: Bm, D, G, D, A, G, D, A, D. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes. Chords: D, A, Bm, A, F#m7, D, Bm, G, A, Bm. The fourth staff also features a triplet of eighth notes. Chords: D, A, Bm, A, F#m7, G, Em, D, A, D. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Like some other tunes in his collection, this has been inspired by the movie "Amadeus". Could be a great tune in the right hands (maybe!)

## The VOYAGE SOUTH (reel)

© BB 2009

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

My tune tribute to Captain George Anthony and the hardy crew of the New Bedford schooner "Catalpa" who managed to rescue six Fenian prisoners from Australia in 1876. It's a terrific story that I think deserves to be better known, and as usual Wikipedia is there to supply the details. My song "New Bedford's Brave Catalpa" also celebrates this event ([www.capeirish.com/bbsongs/catalpa](http://www.capeirish.com/bbsongs/catalpa))

# WALKIN' the PUPS (jig)

© BB

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

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A tune that jumped into my head as I was accompanying a couple of malamute pups on their morning stroll!

## The WALTZING ARMADILLO (jig)

© BB

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

This tune is dedicated to Larry Mallette and the other musicians of Houston who for many years gathered weekly at the "Mucky Duck" for their session. By the way - I recently found out that German prisoners of war interned in Texas during WW II referred to armadillos - not found in Europe - as "panzer-schweine" [= "armored pigs"]. Pretty good description, huh? And hunters will tell you that a 'dillo coming through the brush does indeed sound very much like a tank. Any other questions? (Upper notes in mm 9 & 14 for treble instruments.)



## The WHALING CITY (reel)

© BB 2009

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

The downtown "historic" area of New Bedford MA is preserved to remain much the same as it was in the days when Herman Melville wrote "Moby Dick", whose opening chapters take place in the town. New Bedford and its western neighbor Fall River have fallen on hard times recently because of changes in fishing regulations (NB) and mill closings (FR) but the locals remain optimistic about their future. This tune is a tribute to the fine musicians of the "South Coast".

# WHELAN'S FROLIC (jig)

© BB

The musical score for "Whelan's Frolic" is written in 6/8 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of C major. The third staff begins with a double bar line and a key signature change to D major (two sharps). The fourth and fifth staves continue in D major. Chords are indicated above the notes: Am, G, C, G, Am, D, C, G, Em, Am, G, C, G, Am7, Am, A, A, A, G, A, G, Em, A, A, G, A, G, A, G, Em, A.

A kind of "experimental" tune inspired by John Whelan, who qualifies as one of the premier box players in the traditional scene today. I've known John since he came to the US from England many years ago. (He hasn't changed a whole lot over the years!) I also got to meet his UK family - very nice folks who made me feel very welcome!

# WHERE CAN SHE BE OFF TO? (fling)

© BB

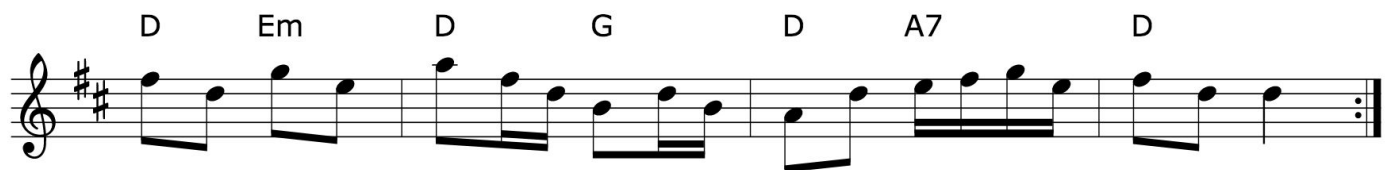
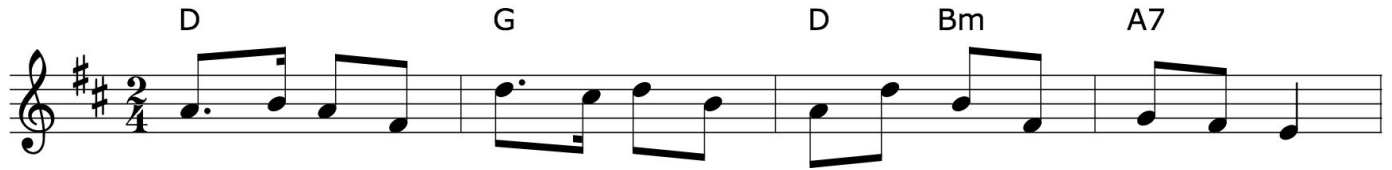
G      Em7      G      F      G      Em7      G      D      G  
 G      F      G      Em7      D      G

I don't recall the inspiration for this title - I think it had something to do with a cat.  
 But maybe not.

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## The WHITE BULL (polka)

© BB



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A few years back I was confronted with the question: do bovines sleep on their sides like dogs and cats? Driving in the country recently I observed a bull in this position, and it occurred to me that I didn't recall ever seeing a cow (or sheep) stretched out like that. I hoped he was okay but wasn't sure how to check on his well-being (which a bull might not have responded kindly to anyway). I probably could have stopped at the farmhouse to ask but I didn't have the time. Any help with this fascinating topic would be most appreciated!

## WHITE LIGHTNING, MY ASS! (jig)

© BB

A Bm F#m A Bm A E  
 A Bm F#m E E7 A A  
 A Bm E A E  
 A Bm E E7 A A

Anyone who takes offense at the name of this tune (and I know you're out there!) should know that it refers to an actual donkey named "White Lightning". This noble beast carried two young American musicians around Ireland for awhile until it disappeared from outside a pub one night. The creature's subsequent fate is (alas) unknown. (My epic poem "Voyage of the Heroes" is almost 100% historically accurate! - copy available on request).

## A WINTER MORNING (reel)

© BB 2006

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

Temperature the morning that I wrote this tune was 21F with a 20 mph breeze, putting windchill in the sub-zero range somewhere - no doubt Winter had finally arrived. I kept wondering if the time had at last come for serious thoughts about a houseboat in Key West . . .

# The WOODS HOLE FISHERMAN (reel)

© BB

Am G Am Am7 C G Am7

Am G Am Am7 C G7 C G Am

C Dm Am C Am

C Am Dm Am G7 C G Am

Woods Hole is a pleasant village on the southwestern tip of Cape Cod, part of the town of Falmouth. Besides the Martha's Vineyard ferry terminal, Woods Hole has a number of laboratories and academic institutions, all involved with the oceans and the creatures that live in them. There's also a neat aquarium, a couple of pastry / coffee shops, and several nice restaurants - in short, well worth a visit if you're ever up this way!

# The YONKERS PIPER (reel)

© BB

G Em C G Am7 G D

G G Em C G Em D7 G

G Em Am D7 G Em G D

G Am Em7 Am D G Em D G

This tune is a "tip o' the cap" to master piper Jerry O'Sullivan, a good friend of ours who was a Yonkers resident for many years. Not much else notable about the town itself, except that there's still (or was until recently) an active Irish scene up there, especially around McLean Avenue.



## The YOUNG BOSTONIANS (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains the first measure of the piece, with chords Bm, G, F#m, Bm, D, A, and Bm. The second staff contains the second measure, with chords Bm, D, Em, D, A, D, A, and D. The third staff contains the third measure, with chords Bm, F#m, D, Bm, Em, A, D, and G. The fourth staff contains the fourth measure, with chords Bm, F#m, D, Em, Bm, G, A, and D. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The notes are primarily eighth and quarter notes, with some dotted notes and a trill in the second measure.

This tune was named for the lads who in years past were some of the stalwarts of the Boston trad scene. Time has moved on, and so have they, sometimes to distant hostile places like Iraq and Afghanistan. But they know they have a warm welcome awaiting them when they come back to Boston!