

**A Cape Breton Collection**  
**Airs, Marches, Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs, and Waltzes**

**Mostly transcribed from recorded sources**  
**by**  
**Paul Fackler**

**November, 2002**



**This collection contains 201 tunes played on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Most of the tunes were transcribed from recorded sources. The collection is organized by tune type (Air, Miscellaneous, March, Strathspey, Reel, Jig and Waltz) and then by key. The miscellaneous tunes include clogs, hornpipes and polkas. Clogs and slow hornpipes (e.g., Newcastle Hornpipe) are typically in sets in along with marches or strathspeys. Polkas and fast hornpipes (e.g. The Wildcat) might be mixed with reels in a set.**

**The modes are major, Dorian(minor) and Mixolydian. Modes have been employed to reduce the use of accidentals. A simple way to remember the modes is that the Mixolydianmode uses a flatted seventh degree (e.g., G natural in the A scale) and the Dorianmode uses, in addition, a flatted third (e.g., C natural in the A scale); the flatted third gives the tune the minor feel. For additional information on modes in Cape Breton music, see Kate Dunlay and David Greenberg's *Traditional Celtic Violin Music of Cape Breton* (the DunGreen Collection; [www.DunGreenMusic.com](http://www.DunGreenMusic.com)). In the Cape Breton tradition it is common for musicians to play medleys of tunes with the same tonic but to switch freely between the modes.**

**The intent of this collection is not to record every nuance of the tunes as played by traditional fiddlers (an impossible task) but rather to provide a basic melodic framework which can help a player in learning a tune. It is the belief of the author that tunes should generally be learned by ear with sheet music serving as a learning aid rather than as a primary source. Most of the tunes list at least one recorded example of the tune, generally on a recording that is readily available. Good sources for CapeBreton recordings (and sheet music) are Cranford Publications ([www.cranfordpub.com](http://www.cranfordpub.com)), Castlebay Music ([www.castlebaymusic.com](http://www.castlebaymusic.com)) and Charlie's Down Home Music ([www.capebretonet.com/Music/Charlies](http://www.capebretonet.com/Music/Charlies)).**

**The entire collection is available as an ABC file, available at the web site given. Contact the author for more information or with comments, suggestions, etc.**

**Paul Fackler  
4005 Nottaway Road  
Durham, North Carolina, USA  
[paul\\_fackler@ncsu.edu](mailto:paul_fackler@ncsu.edu)  
[www4.ncsu.edu/~pfackler](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~pfackler)**

**Note on current edition: A number of tunes that appeared in earlier versions of this tune book have been removed because they are composed by 20<sup>th</sup> century Cape Breton musicians and are available in the composers' tune books. These include the following composers Donald Angus Beaton, Kinnon Beaton and Andrea Beaton (The Beaton Collection), Joey Beaton (Mabou Tunes & Tunes and Ties), Jerry Holland (Jerry Holland's Collection of Fiddle Tunes & The Second Collection), Dan R. MacDonald (Heather Hill & Trip to Windsor), Dougie MacDonald (Fiddle Tunes), Dan Hughie MacEachern (MacEachern's Vol. 1 & 2), Brenda Stubbert (Brenda Stubbert's Collection of Fiddle Tunes).**

**I do not know whether other tunes in this collection represent copyrighted material and apologize in advance for any oversights in this regard. Please contact me if you have information concerning copyright issues.**

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