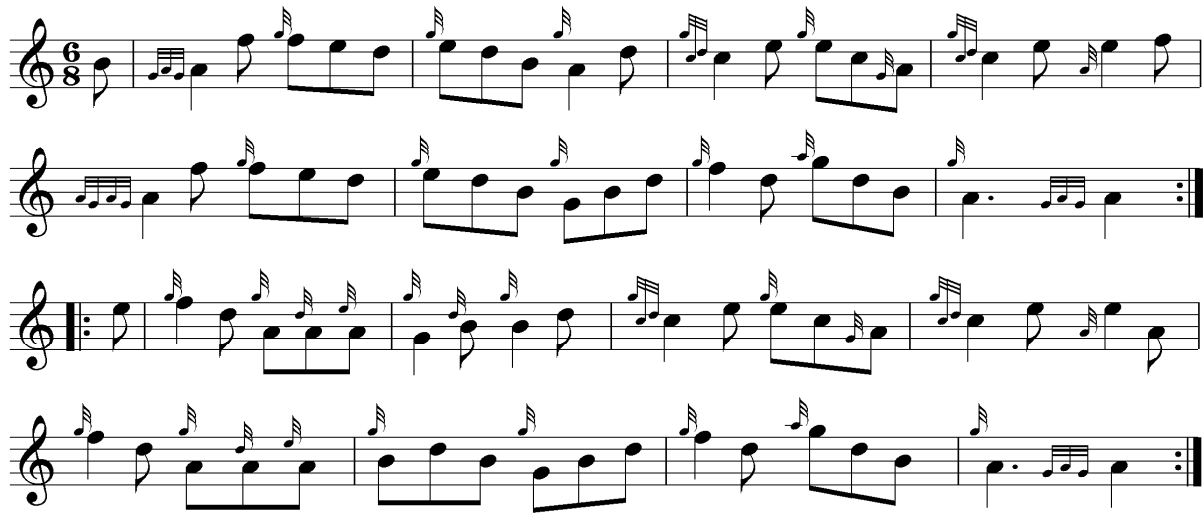


The Great McGinty

Jig



The Great McGinty: was a B29 Superfortress, commanded by a flyer with North East connections during World War II. Saucier skippers named their planes for pin-ups and showgirls, “Memphis Belle” and such; but this respectable craft was called after a bothy ballad, “McGinty’s Meal and Ale” written by the brilliant George Bruce Thompson of New Deer (1864-1914) which tells of a harvest home disrupted by a drunken pig. It begins:

This is nae a sang o’ love na’, nor yet a sang o’ money,
 Faith it’s naethin’ verra peetifu’; it’s naethin’ verra funny;
 But there’s Hielan’ Scotch, an’ Lowland Scotch, Butter Scotch an’ Honey,
 If there’s nane o’ them for a’ there’s a mixture o’ the three.
 An’ there’s nae a word o’ beef, brose, sowens, sauty bannocks na’
 Nor pancakes, pace eggs for them wi’ dainty stammicks;
 But it’s a’ about a meal and ale that happened at Balmannocks—
 McGinty’s meal and ale, whaur the pig gae’d on the spree.

Chorus:

They were howlin’ in the kitchen like a caravan o’ tinkies, aye,
 And some were playin’ ping-pong, and tiddely widdely winkies;
 For up the howe an’ doon the howe ye niver saw such jinkies,
 As McGinty’s meal and ale, whaur the pig ga’ed on the spree.

I had intended an accompanying piece to be called “The Lesser McGinty”, but I have not managed to write it yet.