

## Baldovan Reel

## Polka



***The Baldovan Reel:*** is a Scottish country dance. I've cut it down a bit in the second part and give it here as a polka. Baldovan is in the Dundee area. Playing together, which country dancing often involves, can sometimes be a fraught experience for traditional musicians.

In his classic little study of the fiddle tradition *Strathspey Players Past and Present* (London: Larg, 1922, reprinted The Hardie Press: Edinburgh 1984), William C. Honeyman, talking of Jamie Duncan of Longside, says: "Jamie was not only full of tricks, but could play upon almost any key, and it is related of him that once in the middle of a dance a tailor, who was playing along with him, suddenly stopped and putting his fiddle into its green bag, stalked indignantly out of the room. On being asked what was wrong, he wrathfully answered, 'I've keepit dacent company a' my days and I'm nae gaun to change my ways noo. At this moment Jamie Duncan's playing "Monymusk" in four flats, and I say that the man that wad do that is fit for ony kin' o' rascality.'" (p.13)