

Jimmy Allan

March



Jimmy Allan: I heard country dance bands playing this and adapted it for the pipes. I do not know when it was first composed or by whom.

John Ban's Sister's Wedding

Jig

The image shows four staves of musical notation for a jig in 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The second staff continues the melody and includes a repeat sign with first and second endings. The third and fourth staves continue the melody and conclude with a final double bar line.

John Bàn's Sister's Wedding (from previous page): A slowed-down version of this provided the tune for the Gaelic song, "Mo Dhachaidh", by songwriter and composer Malcolm MacFarlane of Paisley (1853-1931), the Scots version being by Alexander Stewart of Polmont and beginning "Cheerily, coothily, canty and free / Oh this is the hour o' sweet solace tae me; / When weary wi' workin' oot ow'r the green lea / I toddle wi' glee tae my ain hoose." Nowadays pipers know it as the slow air "My Home." It

works a lot better as a jig, the form in which it was first published by Donald MacDonald in his *Collection of Quicksteps, Strathspeys, Reels, & Jigs* (1828).



Taymouth Castle where John Bàn MacKenzie (1796-1864) was employed by the fabulously wealthy marquesses of Breadalbane who staged lavish "Highland entertainments for the crowned heads of Europe." A later holder of the post, John MacDougall Gillies related how he and Sandy Cameron "used to adjourn to the Tower and there play to their hearts' content. Mr. Gillies used to say he never heard anything finer than Sandy's playing of 'The Ribean Gorm' on a fine summer evening with a gentle breeze carrying it far up the glen. Variation after variation of this most symmetrical and beautiful tune, rolled around singlings, doublings, and treblings, embedding the urlar in the crunluath-a-mach as even as a wheel on a mill-lade..."