Folk Dance

Tune Sets

Traditional, arranged by

Rob Harbron
The Full English

The Full English was a unique nationwide project unlocking hidden treasures of England’s cultural heritage by making over 58,000 original source documents from 12 major folk collectors available to the world via a ground-breaking nationwide digital archive and learning project. The project was led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and in partnership with other cultural partners across England.

The Full English digital archive (www.vwml.org) continues to provide access to thousands of records detailing traditional folk songs, music, dances, customs and traditions that were collected from across the country. Some of these are known widely, others have lain dormant in notebooks and files within archives for decades.

The Full English learning programme worked across the country in 19 different schools including primary, secondary and special educational needs settings. It also worked with a range of cultural partners across England, organising community, family and adult learning events.

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Two Dance Sets

These tunes have been put together by Rob Harbron as part of The Full English school project at Hanham High School, South Gloucestershire in 2014.

Each set consists of 3 dance tunes chosen to work well together as a set. One is a set of reels, tunes in simple time (2/4, 4/4, 2/4), used for dances such as the Dashing White Sergeant. The other set is of jigs, tunes in compound time (6/8, 9/8, 12/8), used for dances such as Circassian Circle. Each tune might be repeated a few times before moving on to the next in the set.

Chords have been suggested – but these chords are merely suggestions – most folk musicians would use chords similar to these but different musicians would be likely to change chords in different places. Some players would use a lot more relative minors, some would hold drones or pedals, and some would go for a much more jazzy approach. And of course the tunes work very well by themselves with no chords.

Additional Resources

Audio recordings by Rob Harbron of all the tunes in this pack are available for free download from www.efdss.org/resourcebank. Each tune is available individually at a slow speed. There is also a separate recording for each ‘set’ of tunes, played at full speed.
All the tunes can be found within The Full English digital archive:

**REELS**
- **Twin Sisters**: www.vwml.org/record/MK/1/3/5133
  Collected from Nancy Masters by Maud Karpeles
  10 August 1929, Weld, Maine, USA
- **The Morpeth Rant**: www.vwml.org/record/MK/1/3/4996
  Collected from Tom Arkle by Maud Karpeles & Mrs Dixon-Brown
  16 May 1928, Netherwitton, Northumberland
- **Country Dance (Henry Cave’s)**: www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/1488
  Collected from Henry Cave by Cecil Sharp
  11 Sept 1907, Midsomer Norton, Somerset

**JIGS**
- **The Queen’s Delight**: www.vwml.org/record/GB/7d/18
  Collected from Will Rolf by George Butterworth
  1912, Bucknell, Oxfordshire
- **Handsworth Sword Dance Tunes: Cock O’ The North**
  www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2816B
  Sent by Mr Shaw to Cecil Sharp
  Feb 1913, Darnall, Yorkshire
- **The Kingsbury Jig**: www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/59
  Collected from The Barrington Fiddlers by Cecil Sharp
  26 Dec 1903, Hambridge, Somerset

**Tips for learning**
- Listen to the recordings of the tunes, and play along, listening out for repeated passages and patterns.
- Play from the page, gradually committing tunes to memory so you can throw the music away!
Unlocking hidden treasures of England’s cultural heritage
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Dance tune set - Reels
from The Full English digital archive

TWIN SISTERS

THE MORPETH RANT
D G A D G A D G A D G A D G A D G A

COUNTRY DANCE (Henry Cave’s)
G D C Am D G D

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Dance tune set - Jigs
from The Full English digital archive

THE QUEEN'S DELIGHT

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

COCK O' THE NORTH

D G D A D G D A
D A D G D A D A
D G D G D A D A

KINGSBURY JIG

G D G D G C
D G G C D
G C D G C

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Rob Harbron

Rob Harbron is a sought-after multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer and one of the country’s leading players of the English concertina. He performs and records with numerous artists including Leveret, Fay Hield and the Hurricane Party, Emma Reid, Jon Boden and the Remnant Kings, Kerr Fagan Harbron and Fieldfare. He was Musical Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company’s 2013 production of The Winter’s Tale, and he has recently been commissioned to write music for the British Silent Film Festival, the English Folk Dance and Song Society and the Royal Geographical Society. He is a popular teacher and workshop leader, directs the English Acoustic Collective Summer School and has been a tutor for the National Youth Folklore Troupe of England.

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