



StrathPotomac Fiddler

May 2010

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April Fiddle Club Meeting Report

by PVSFC President Becky Ross

The April meeting was hosted by Doug Scott at his friends' house in Rockville, MD. It was a beautiful day and we elected to run the workshop outside on the back patio. Becky led the workshop in Elke's absence, but with Elke's notes on the tunes for the month.

The theme this month was Jigs! We had old jigs, new jigs, jigs from Scottish Country Dance and from Cape Breton, pipe tunes, and two-steps. The three tunes we learned by ear were "The Maid of the Mill" from Scottish Country Dancing, "Major's Maggot," which is played in the pipe style (i.e., more dotted or pointed in the lilt), and "Todlen Hame," which is an old song tune that is also used for dancing.

After the sheet music was distributed we played through the rest of the tunes, including the two-step "The Quarryman." Two-steps are characterized by

long phrases (i.e., 16 bars for the first phrase) and long notes (dotted quarters) punctuating the phrases. From Cape Breton, "Campbell's Road" is also a two-step, but remember that jigs are played just about evenly (i.e., not dotted) to match the dance steps of the jig figure in Cape Breton squares.

After the workshop, we had a nice potluck and finished with a lively jam session. See the directions on page 3 to our last workshop until the fall. We hope to see you there!

Newsletter Now Distributed Primarily Via E-Mail

As we announced in December, the PVSFC Board has decided to reduce the number of paper copies of the *StrathPotomac Fiddler* as much as possible. Thanks to those who have responded to let us know you would like to continue receiving copies of the newsletter by U.S. mail.

If you want to continue receiving a paper copy and haven't responded yet, please write to newsletter@potomacvalleyscottishfiddle.org, or to StrathPotomac Fiddler, c/o Becky Ross, 9200 Brink Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20882.

Scottish Q&A: What year did the collection of summer festivals popularly known as "The Edinburgh Festival" begin?

- 1927
- 1937
- 1947
- 1957

(Keep reading. The answer is in here somewhere...)