

## 2026 ECMW workshop: Three (or more) great jigs you probably don't know

### Quick And Merry Arranged by Gavin Atkin

Chords: D, Bm7, Em, D, A, A7, D, Bm7, G, A, D, D, Bm7, G, Em, A7, F#m, Bm7, G, Em, A, D, 1 A7 D, 2 A7 D

Quick and Merry first appears in Londoner William Cahusac's tune and dance book *Twenty Four Country Dances for the Year 1785*: [https://www.village-music-project.org.uk/?page\\_id=815](https://www.village-music-project.org.uk/?page_id=815)

It also turns up in the J Roose (1850) and A.J. Hughes (early 19<sup>th</sup>C) mss: [https://www.village-music-project.org.uk/?page\\_id=84](https://www.village-music-project.org.uk/?page_id=84)

### Hey Diddle Diddle

Chords: G, C, D, C, D, C, 1 G D, 2 G, G, Bm7, C, D, C, G, D, G, Bm7, C, D, C, D, 1 C G, 2 C G

Ewan MaColl heard this tune played by an organ grinder outside his family home as a child in Manchester during the early 20<sup>th</sup>C, and later used it as the vehicle for his famous song *The Manchester Rambler*. I think it deserves playing, particularly on a fiddle – the bowing is good exercise!

The Ornithologist  
 (A and B section only from the composer's original)

*Freeland Barbour*

♩ = 140

D7 G C D

D C D7 1 G D7 2 G G

G C A

D D7 1 G D7 G 2 G D7 G

This is my cut-down and likely adapted version of Mr Barbour's tune. I think it's a lot of fun, and pairs nicely with Ian Rankine's *The Hogmanay Jig*, which I think is more widely played in English tunes sessions. They're both modern Scottish jigs, of course!

The Hogmanay is quite well known, but just in case you haven't picked it up, here it is:

The Hogmanay Jig  
 (As played by Gavin Atkin)

D A7 D D A7 G

A7 Em A 1 G D 2 A7 D

A7 D A7 D A7 G A7

Em D A7 D 1 A7 G A7 2 A7 G D

### A Trip to Highgate

The musical score for "A Trip to Highgate" is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff shows the melody with chords G, C, and D. The second staff has chords G, C, G, and a first ending with C and G, followed by a second ending with C and G. The third staff has chords G, C, G, and D. The fourth staff has chords G, C, G, D, and a first ending with C and G, followed by a second ending with C and G.

A Trip to Highgate appears in *Thompson's Compleat Collection of 200 Favourite Country Dances*, which appears to have been published in London some time in the 1780s:  
<https://www.libraryofdance.org/manuals/1780c-Thompson-Compleat-4.pdf>

It also appears in *Thompson's 24 Country Dances*, published in 1777:  
<https://www.libraryofdance.org/manuals/1780c-Thompson-Compleat-4.pdf>