

A Musical Diary



Nick Barber

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I've always written diaries, somehow feeling that if I don't record things I'll lose my grip on life and it will slip out of my grasp. In 1997 I started writing tunes, too. These tunes I call my Musical Diary. The tunes stem from ordinary events and conversations, the melodies often being loosely based on the words spoken.

I'd like to thank all the people who have been part of this over the years: Mary Barber, Adrian Jackson, Vic and Sheila Gammon, White Rose Morris, Thomas Barber, Baz and Joy, Lisa Jarvest, Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra, Ned Barstow, Art Jonkers, Juliet, Debby Noble, Lynne Wadsworth, Deborah Allon, Gordon and Sue, Bryony Griffith and Will Hampson, "Chas" Marshall, Jasper and Karalee Kell, Rick Titley, Whittlesey Straw Bear, English Rebellion, Liam and Bethany Parker, Ossett Beercart, Brown Boots and Shepley Festival.

And never to be forgotten, but sadly no longer with us, are Steve Harrison, Jo Chatterton, Ron Crabtree, Angela Lee, Mac McKinley and Andrew Titley.

All the tunes (except No. 71) are melodeon-friendly, and I have added some chords to give an indication as to how I would play the tunes.

Nick Barber, May 2023

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1983

1. Mary's Polka No. 1

Musical score for '1. Mary's Polka No. 1' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. Chords are indicated above the notes in red text. The first system has chords G, D, G, G, A7, D. The second system has chords G, D, G, D, A, D. The third system has chords C, Em, Am, G, Bm. The fourth system has chords C, Em, B, Em, D.

For Mary Barber, written in 1983.

1984

2. Mary's Polka No. 2

Musical score for '2. Mary's Polka No. 2' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. Chords are indicated above the notes in red text. The first system has chords D, D, Am, Em, D. The second system has chords D, D, C, D, D, A, D. The third system has chords Em, Em, D, Em, Em, D. The fourth system has chords Em, A, D, A, D.

For Mary Barber, written in 1984.

1991

3. Adrian's Tune

Musical score for "Adrian's Tune" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music with red chord labels above the notes. The chords are: G, D, G, D, A, D, C, G; G, C, G, D, G, D, A, D; C, D, G, D, G, C, G; D, G, C, G, A, D; C, G, C, G, C, D, G, D, G.

Written to annoy Adrian Jackson by sounding like
The Alston Flower Show - October 1991.

1992

4. Lantic Bay

Musical score for "Lantic Bay" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music with red chord labels above the notes. The chords are: G, Em, D, D, G; G, Em, D, D, G; C, D, D, G; C, D, D, G.

Written in August 1992 whilst on holiday in Cornwall.

1993

5. Skirmish

Musical score for 'Skirmish' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are the first system, and the last two are the second system. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music is in a 2/4 time signature. The notes are: Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 2: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 3: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 4: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D, Em, G, G, Am, D.

Written in 1993 when White Rose Morris took on board Skirmish from Kemp's Men - the normal tune at the time was British Grenadiers.

6. Stream at the Bottom of the Garden

Musical score for 'Stream at the Bottom of the Garden' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The first two staves are the first system, and the last three are the second system. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The music is in a 2/4 time signature. The notes are: Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 2: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 3: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 4: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 5: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, D, G, D, G, D, C, D, C, G, C, D, G, C, D, Em, Em.

Written for Vic and Sheila Gammon when they were house-hunting. One possibility had a stream at the bottom of the garden - and in other places too! Written in May 1993.