

Flying Pieman

Australia, NSW, Sydney

The musical score for 'Flying Pieman' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff is the melody, and the second staff is the bass line. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, A7, D, A7, D for the melody; and D, G, D, A7, D, G, D, A7, D for the bass line.

Rhythm: Jig

*Book: Kerr's Collection of Merry Melodies, Vol 1, p39, No 35
Folk Songs of Australia, Vol 1, p157, ISBN 0 86840 002 5
Bush Dance, Ed D.Johnson, ISBN 0 9599528 1 0*

*Source: collected from Herb Gimbert, Sydney, NSW
by John Meredith*

Notes: John Meredith records that the tune used by Gimbert was based on a tune that he learned from his grandmother, a Mrs Byrnes who was born in Australia of Irish parents.

The Fiddlers Companion ascribes its origin to "The Masque", a Plaford tune which morphed into "The Frost Is All Over".

Several variants were collected in Australia.

It also turns up as:

- Orley Bensons 'Set Tune'
- Harry Schaefer's 'Lancefield Quadrille No 5'
- Alf Radunz 'What would you do if the Billy Boiled Over'
- Harry Cotter's 'Moriarty's Jig'
- Harry Cotter's 'Billy Boiled Over'
- Joe Cashmere's 'What would you do if the Billy Boiled Over'
- Herb Gimbert's 'Flying Pieman'

History: William Francis King found renown as the flying pieman.

Born in London in March 1807, he arrived in Sydney in 1829.

William was a gifted athlete and performed many amazing athletic feats, mainly walking long distances. While working as a pieman he would sell pies to passengers boarding the Parramatta ferry, then run to Parramatta, a distance of some 18 miles, and offer them the unsold pies as they got off the ferry. More detail of King and his exploits can be found on the web.