

Nancy Dawson

Trad (English) (Australia, NSW, Sydney)

The musical score for 'Nancy Dawson' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves. The first two staves contain the main melody, and the last two staves contain the accompaniment. The melody starts with a G chord, followed by a D chord. The accompaniment starts with an Am chord, followed by a D chord, then a G chord, and finally a C chord. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Rhythm: Jig

Book: H.E Clarke, Social Dance and Early Australian Settlement, PhD Thesis, QUT, 2018

AIRDS v1, No 112

John Buttery Files No 390

Alexander Laing manuscript (1863), Tasmanian State Archives, p41

Source: The 'Convict Dance and Music Research Project' by Dr. Heather Blasdale-Clarke at QUT

Notes: Published 1773.

Other versions of this tune can be found:

Tune arranged by Roland Clarke, 2019

History: Nancy Dawson was a popular actress and dancer for many years around 1760,

and was well known for dancing a hornpipe and being free with her favours.

Even many years later, during the settlement of Australia, she was still

a well known figure. This particular tune was well known and referenced in

the colony, including being the opening tune in a play in 1826 and was the

tune for a song published in the newspaper in 1843.

References:

Advertising (1826, September 20). The Australian (Sydney, NSW : 1824 - 1848), p2

NEW SONG. (1843, March 18). 'The Satirist and Sporting Chronicle' (Sydney, NSW : 1843), p3.