

Silly Old Man

Trad (Australia, NSW, Sydney)

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Silly Old Man'. It is written in 6/8 time and consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system contains 8 measures, and the second system contains 8 measures. The melody in the treble clef is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The bass clef accompaniment provides a steady rhythmic foundation with dotted rhythms and eighth notes. Both systems conclude with repeat signs and first/second endings.

Rhythm: Jig

Book: J Walsh, "Caledonian Country Dances, Being a collection of all the celebrated Scotch country dances now in vogue", London N.D.

Source: J Walsh (pub 1750)

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

Notes: The crew of the "HMS Bounty" are reported to have sung this as they threw Captain Bligh off his ship.

Tune transcribed & arranged by Roland Clarke, 2019