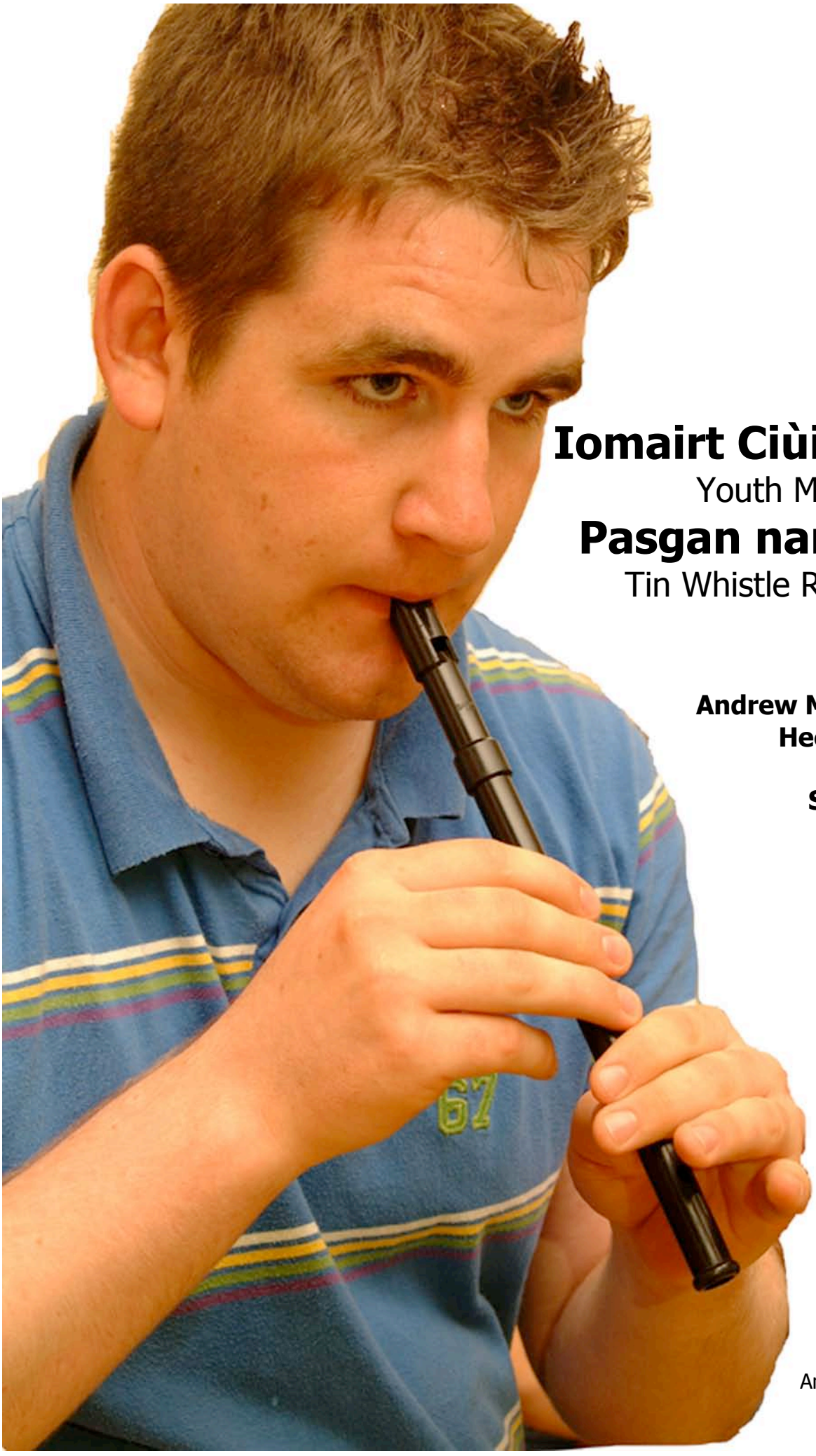

Iomairt Ciùil Òigridh

Youth Music Initiative

Pasgan nam Fìdeag

Tin Whistle Resource Pack

Compiled by
Andrew MacPherson and
Hector Henderson
Music typeset by
Stuart Cameron

Fèisean nan Gàidheal
Taigh a' Mhill
Port-Rìgh
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach
IV51 9BZ
www.feisean.org

Tunes have been sorted into different kinds (e.g. jigs, reels etc) and also graded, with Grade 1 being easy or for beginners, up to Grade 4 being more difficult, or for more advanced players. These grades do not necessarily match up to other grading systems used elsewhere, and are included as a guide only.

The accompanying CD features all the tunes, played at a slower than normal pace, by Andrew MacPherson (whistle), occasionally accompanied by Stuart Cameron (accordion).

All tunes are traditional unless otherwise stated, as far as we have been able to ascertain. If we have mis-credited a tune, please contact us, and we shall rectify that.

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Tips for the Player

Slurring and Tonguing

Slurring and tonguing are used in tunes to help add character and often help give the player the chance to give his/her unique 'feel' to a piece of music.

Slurring

Slurring is achieved by playing a succession of notes on the same breath, instead of blowing each note individually, giving a flowing effect. This works well in most styles of music. I suggest trying it in some slow airs first of all, then progress to some faster, more difficult pieces.

Tonguing

Tonguing is also a good way to add character to your music. Tonguing can be used to make some notes sound more defined than others. The best way, I find, to achieve this is by placing your tongue behind your upper teeth and blowing, giving you a 'tuh' sound.

Tonguing is used by some players very frequently and much less by others. Combined with slurring, these techniques can make a tune far more colourful. Give them a go!

Breathing and Phrasing

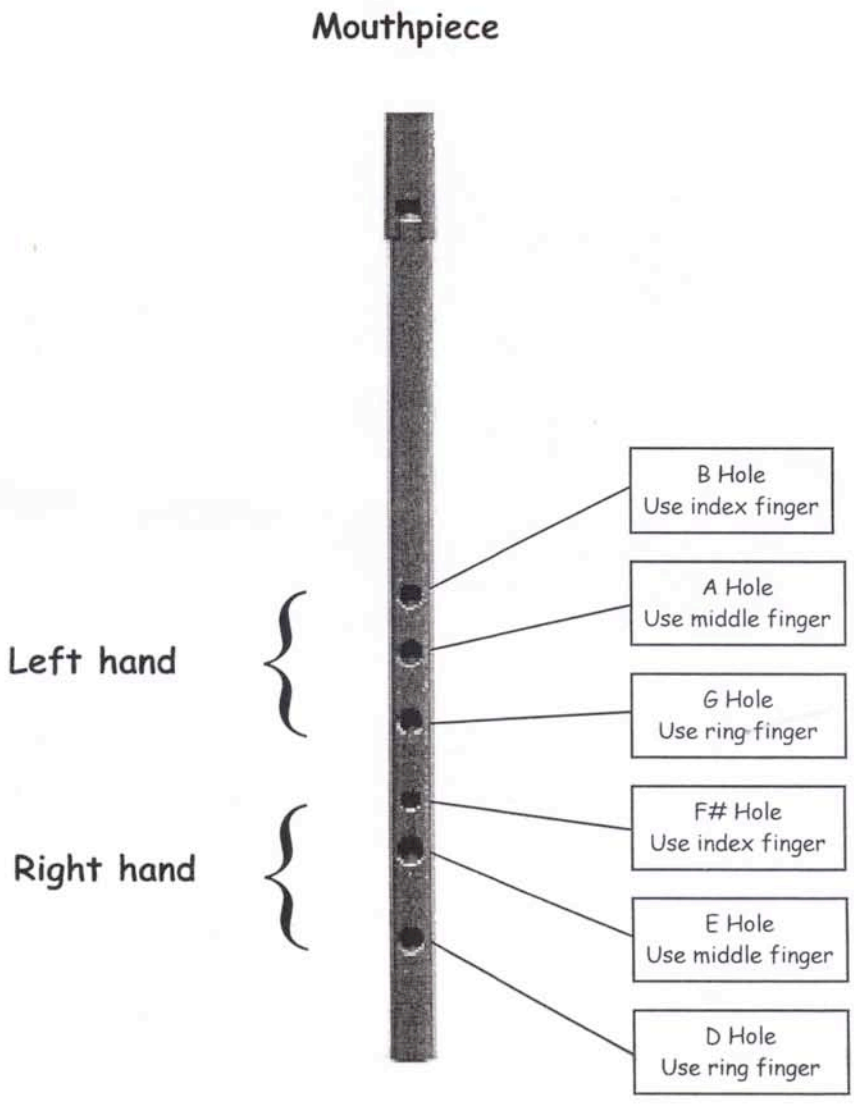
Music is very much like a spoken language in that it has natural breaks. Music can be divided into phrases, and it is between phrases that we take a breath. In many airs, we have phrases that are so long we need to take a breath in the middle. Knowing where to take a breath in a tune is vital to the continuity of the piece. For example, if the breath is taken out of rhythm with the tune, it can disturb the coherence of the piece. Knowing where to take a breath is a task that becomes easier and more natural as the player gains experience on the instrument.

What I tend to do is look at the music and try to find the best places in the tune to take a breath without disturbing the rhythm. Quite often I find that the way the tune has been written leaves obvious places for the player to take a breath. This element of the technique is left to the individual player, and you may find that where you take a breath may be a different place to where others may choose to do so. This does not mean that you are making a mistake, as long as the tune flow and rhythm are not disturbed. As you become more experienced at the instrument, you will find that this element becomes a lot easier, and is a vital tool in how you interpret tunes with your individual style.

Andrew MacPherson

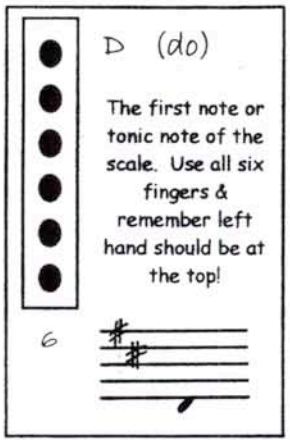
Tin Whistle
Hands and Fingers

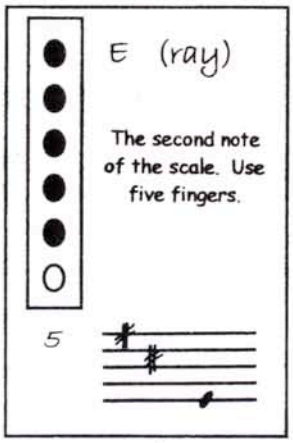
Most people play the tin whistle with the left hand at the top and the right hand at the bottom, although there are no strict rules about this. If you are left handed and feel more comfortable with your hands the other way around, simply swap these hand positions.

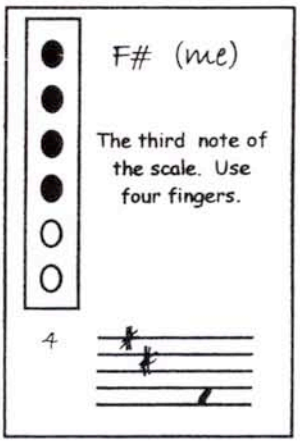


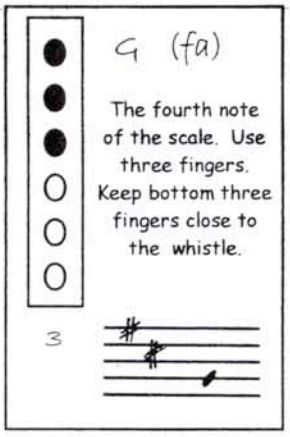
Tin Whistle
Fingering Chart

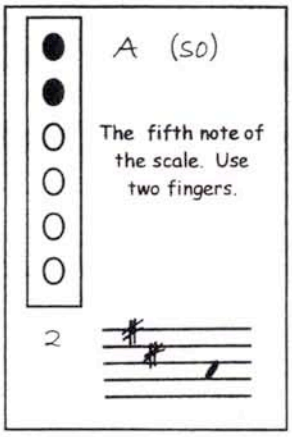
The following chart illustrates the notes in the D Major scale. It will tell you the names of the notes and which fingers you should use to play them. Try each note one at a time, playing from low D right up the scale to the high D. Play each note carefully, and think about each note name as you play it.

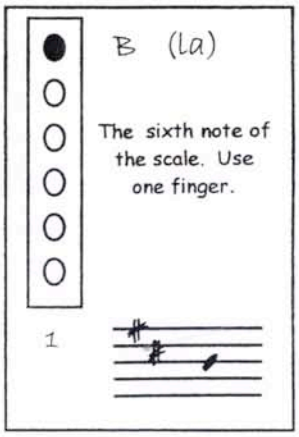


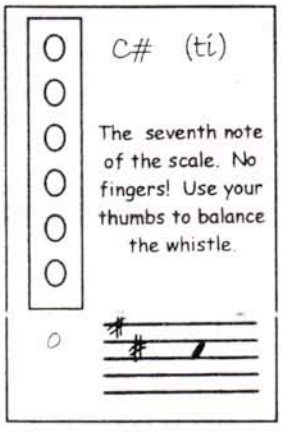


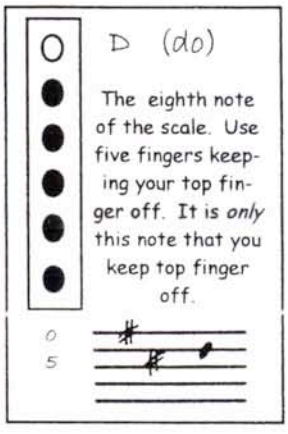












Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (Grade 1)

Row, Row, Row Your Boat (Grade 1)

This Old Man (Grade 1)

O Dear, What can the Matter Be? (Grade 1)

Oro Se Do Bheatha Abhaile (Grade 1)

Cockles & Mussels (Grade 1)

An coineachan (Grade 1)

Lovely Stornoway (Grade 1) [comp. Bob Halfin]

Sìne Bhàn (Grade 1) [comp. Duncan Johnston]

Soraidh le Eilean a' Cheò (Grade 1)

Teann a nall 's thoir dhomh do làmh (Grade 1)

Spancil Hill (Grade 1)

Cearcall a' Chuain (Grade 1)

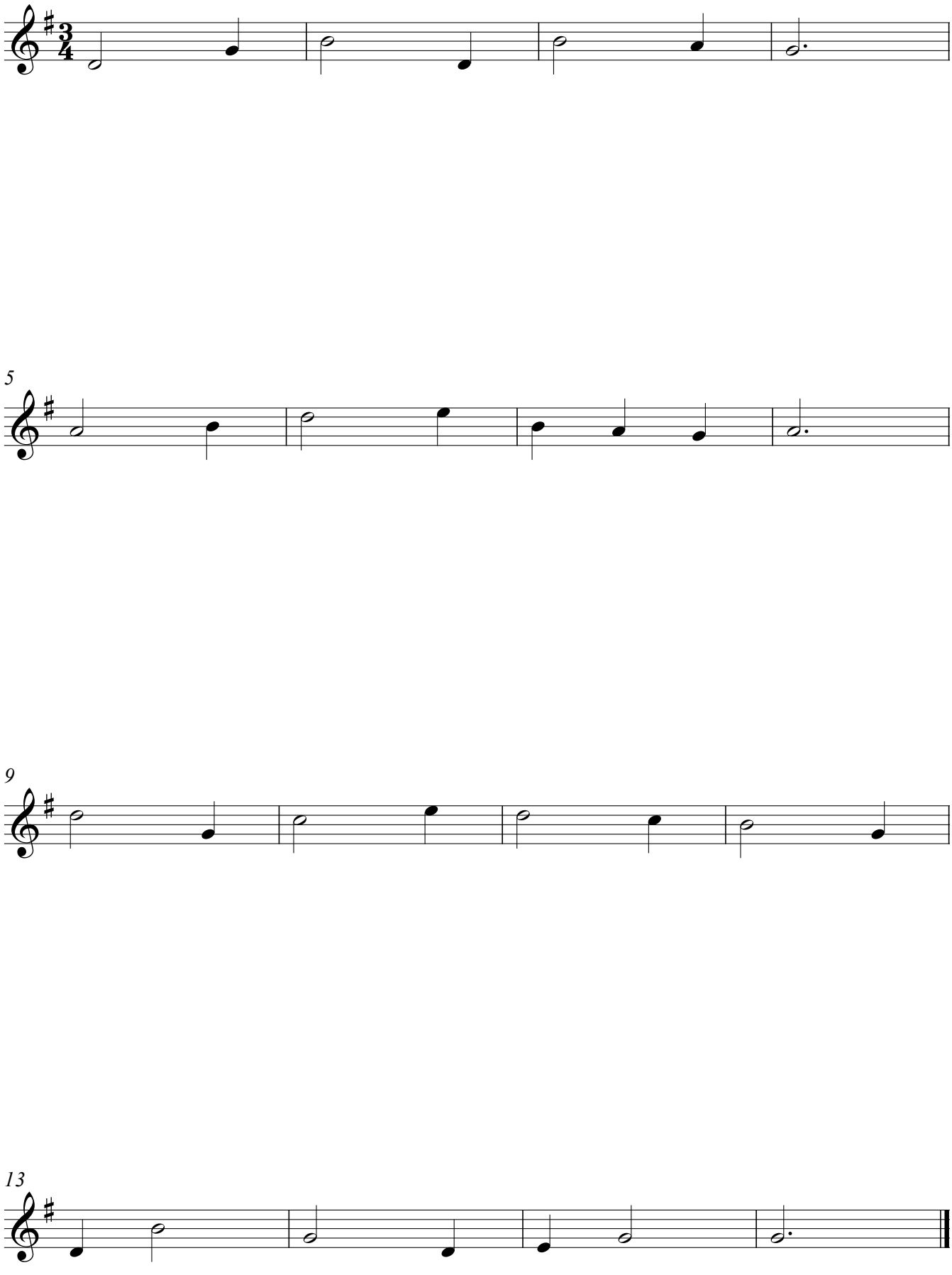
[comp C & R MacDonald (c) Stòrr Music]

Cailin mo rùin-sa (Grade 1)

[comp Donald Ross]

O ho ro mo chailin donn (Grade 1)

[comp C Cameron]



Gràdh geal mo chridh' (Grade 1)

Fagail Liosmòr (Grade 1)

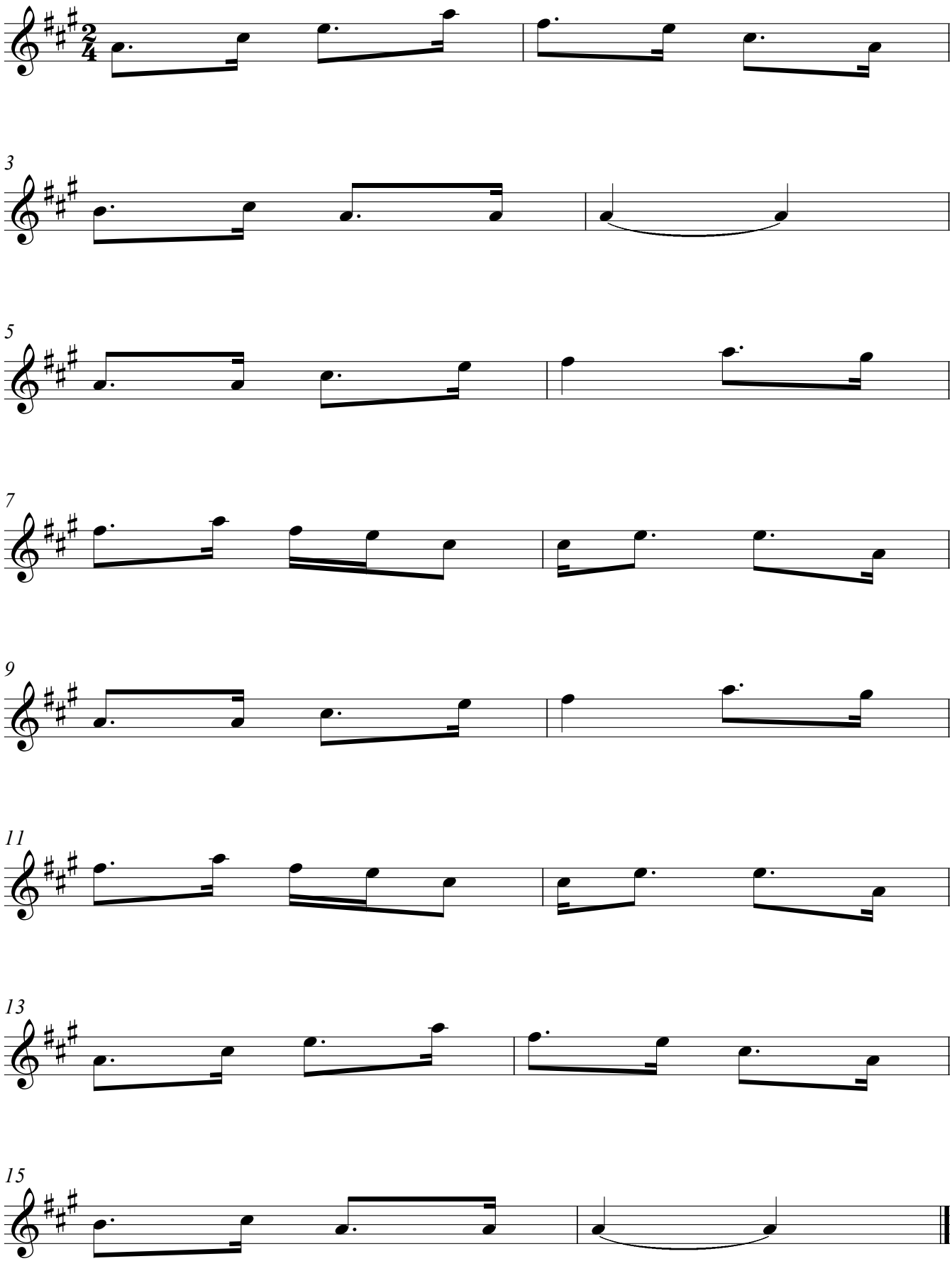
[comp Margaret Martin-Hardie]

Crodh laoigh nam bodach (Grade 1)

Fàilt' air Rubha Bhàtairnis (Grade 1)

Bràigh Loch Iall (Grade 1)

An Eala Bhàn (Grade 1)



'S truagh nach do dh'fhuirich mi tioram air tìr (Grade 1)

[comp Donald MacMillan]

Caol Muile (Grade 2)

[comp Rev Iain MacLeod]

An gaol a thug mi òg (Grade 2)

[comp Neil MacLeod]

Uidhist mo Ghràidh (Grade 2)

[comp Alasdair Matheson]

An tèid thu leam a Mhàiri? (Grade 2)

Is truagh nach d' rugadh dall mi (Grade 2)

(Fil O Ro)

Miss MacLellan of Tigh-a-Ghearraidh (Grade 2)

[comp Iain Campbell]

Eilidh (Grade 2)

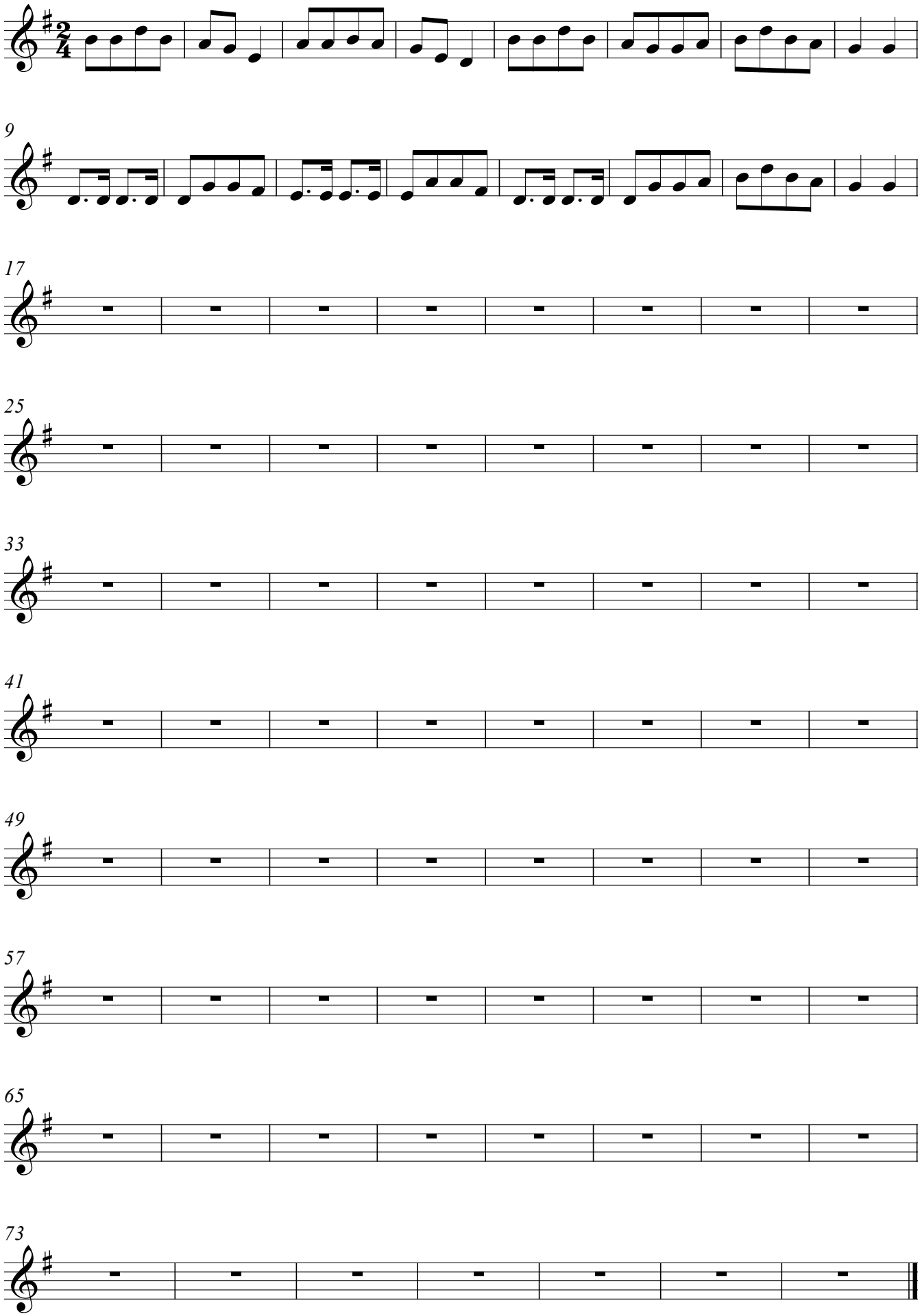
Gillean Ghleann Dail (Grade 2)

MacFarlane o' the sproats o' Birnie Bouzle (Grade 1)

Chì mi Muile (Grade 2)

[comp D MacLellan]

Chan eil mo leannan ann an seo (Grade 2)



Crodh Chailein (Grade 2)

Loch Ruan (Grade 2)

[comp G M MacIntyre]

Flett from Flotta (Grade 2)

[comp PM Donald MacLeod]

Heights of Cassino (Grade 3)

[comp PM Donald MacRae]

The Braemar Gathering (Grade 3)

[comp PM G S MacLennan]

The Ross Battery (Grade 3)

[comp PM Donald MacLeod]

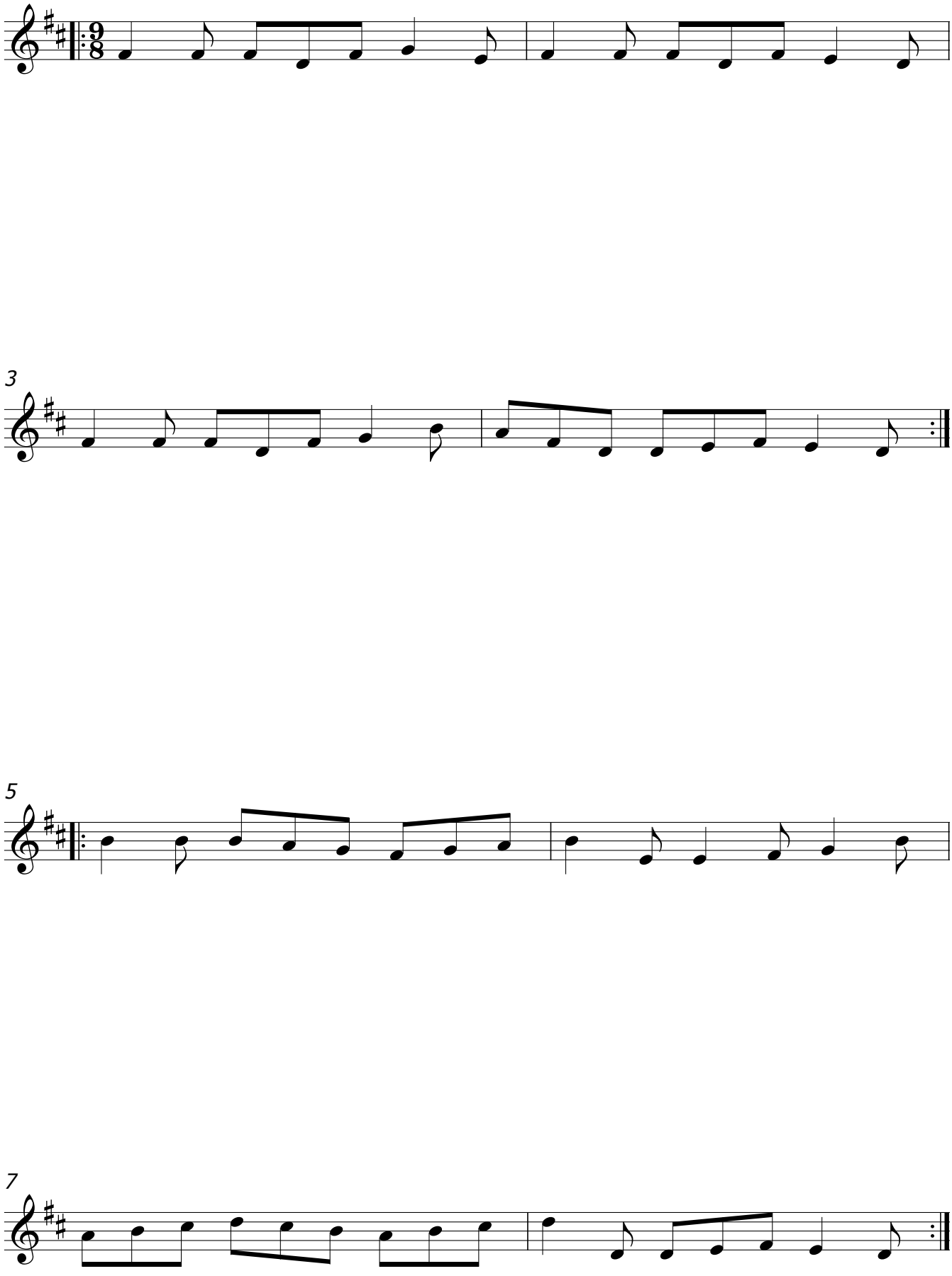
Glen Striven (Grade 3)

[comp J MacLellan]

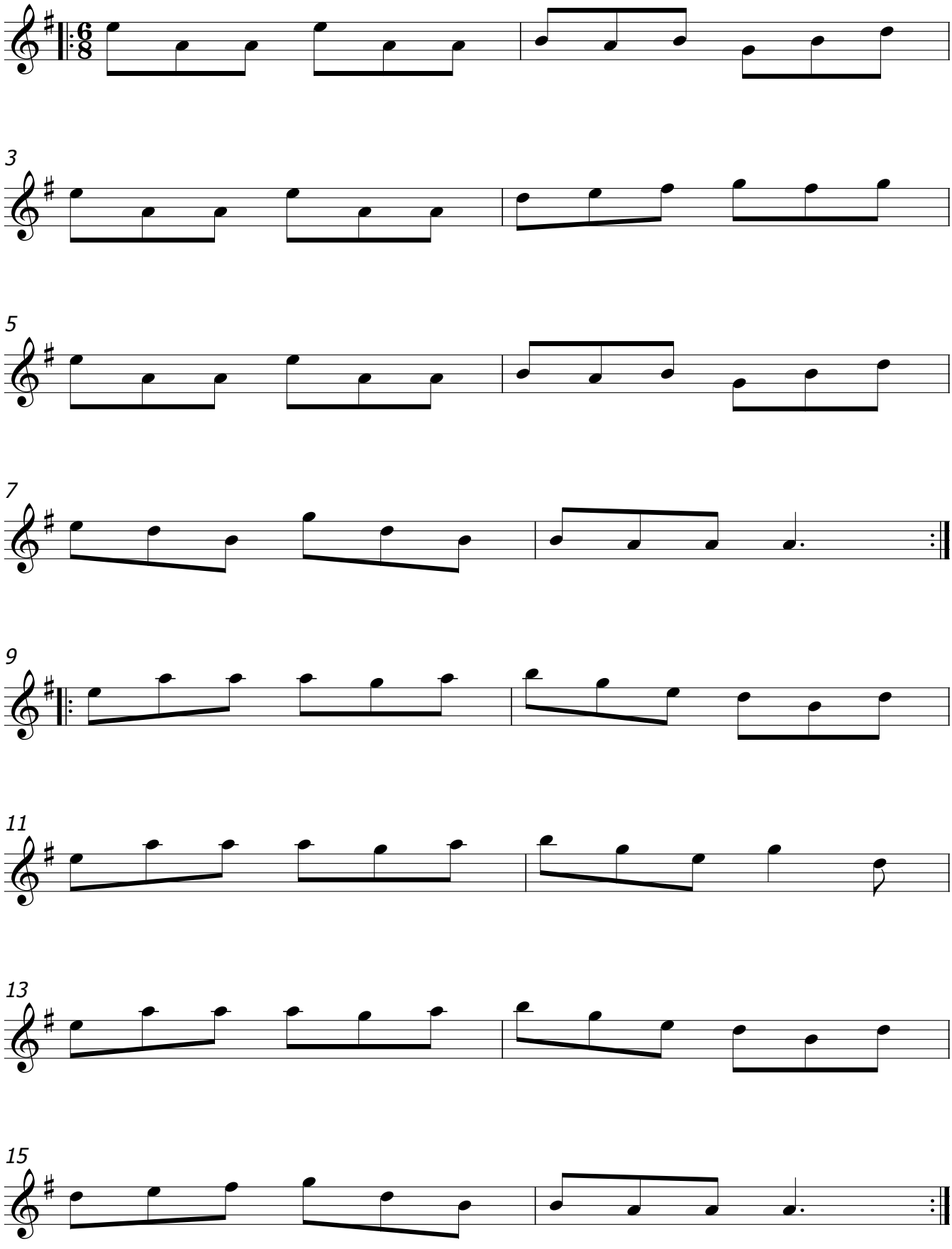
Cabar Fèidh (Grade 3)

Fac' thu na fèidh? (Grade 2)

Nead na lach' as a' luachair (Grade 2)

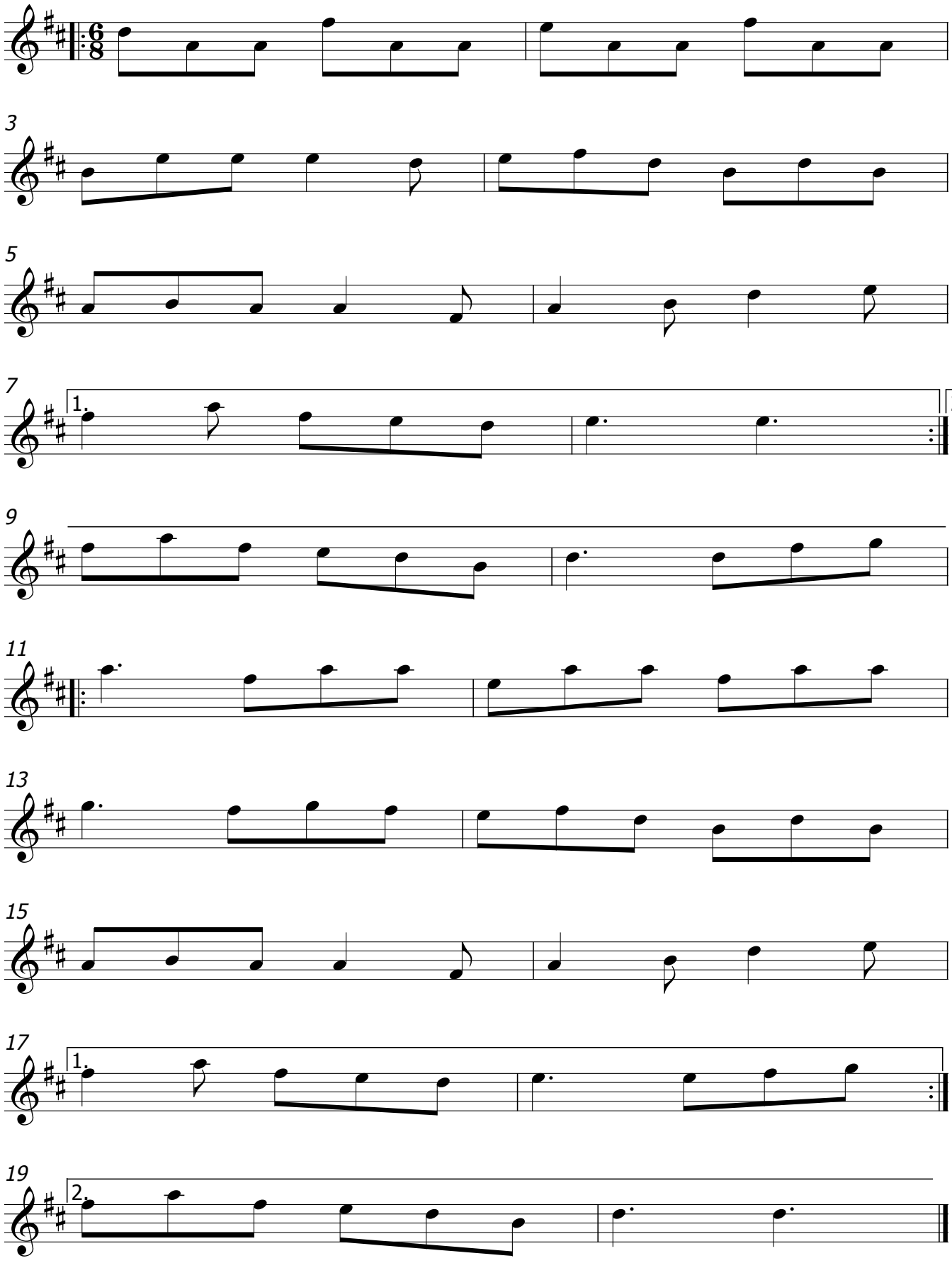


The Tenpenny Bit (Grade 3)



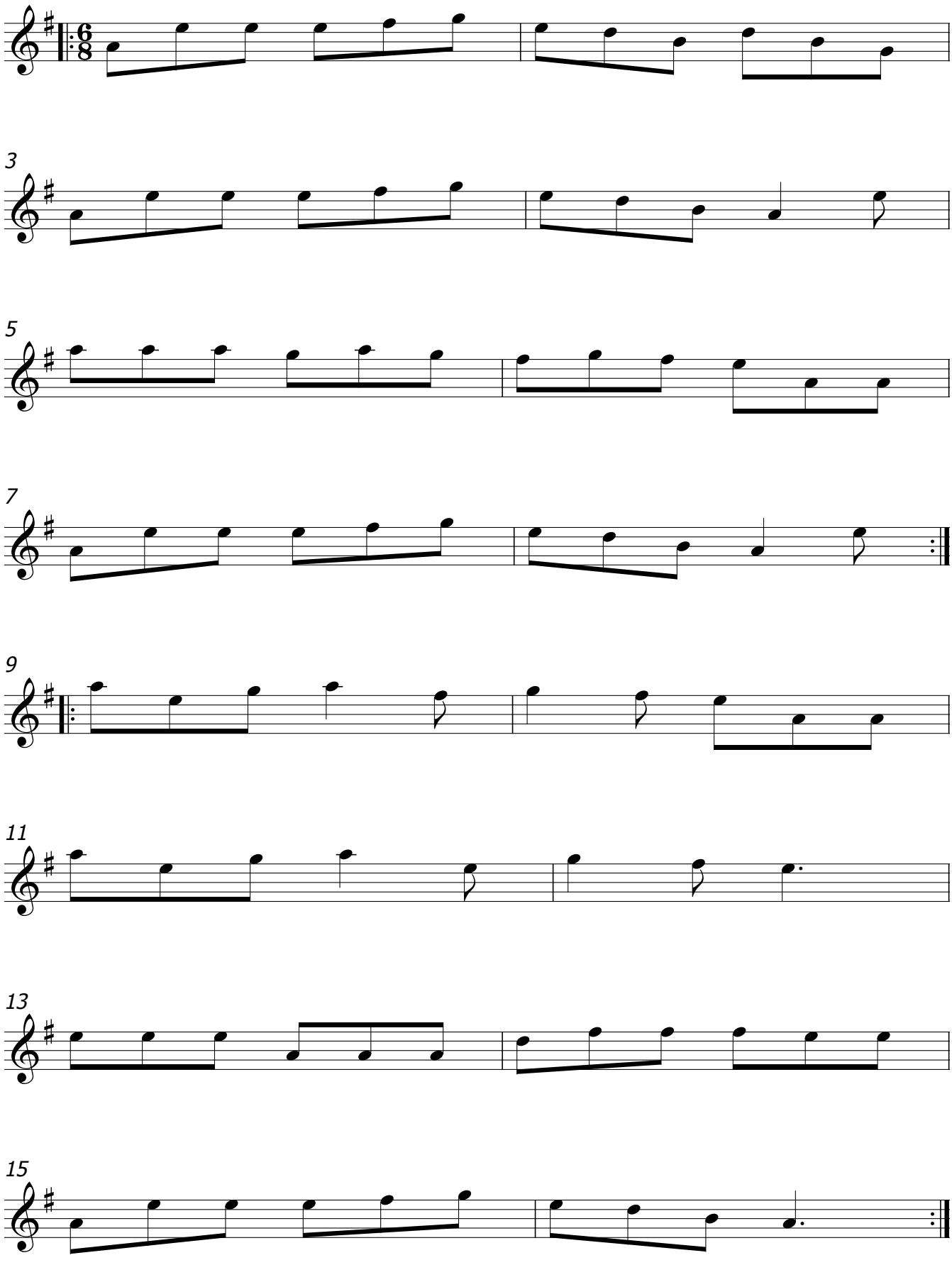
Calliope House (Grade 3)

[comp Dave Richardson]

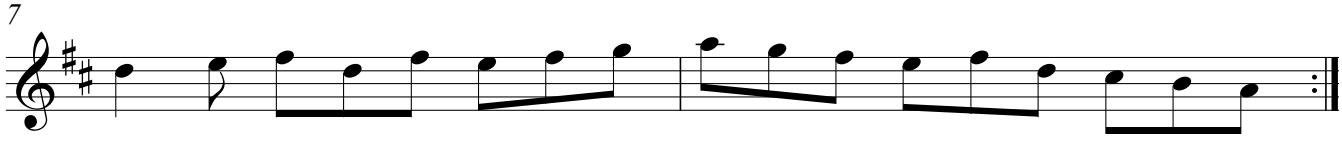


Cion a bhuntàta/Scarce o' Tatties (Grade 3)

[comp Norman MacLean]

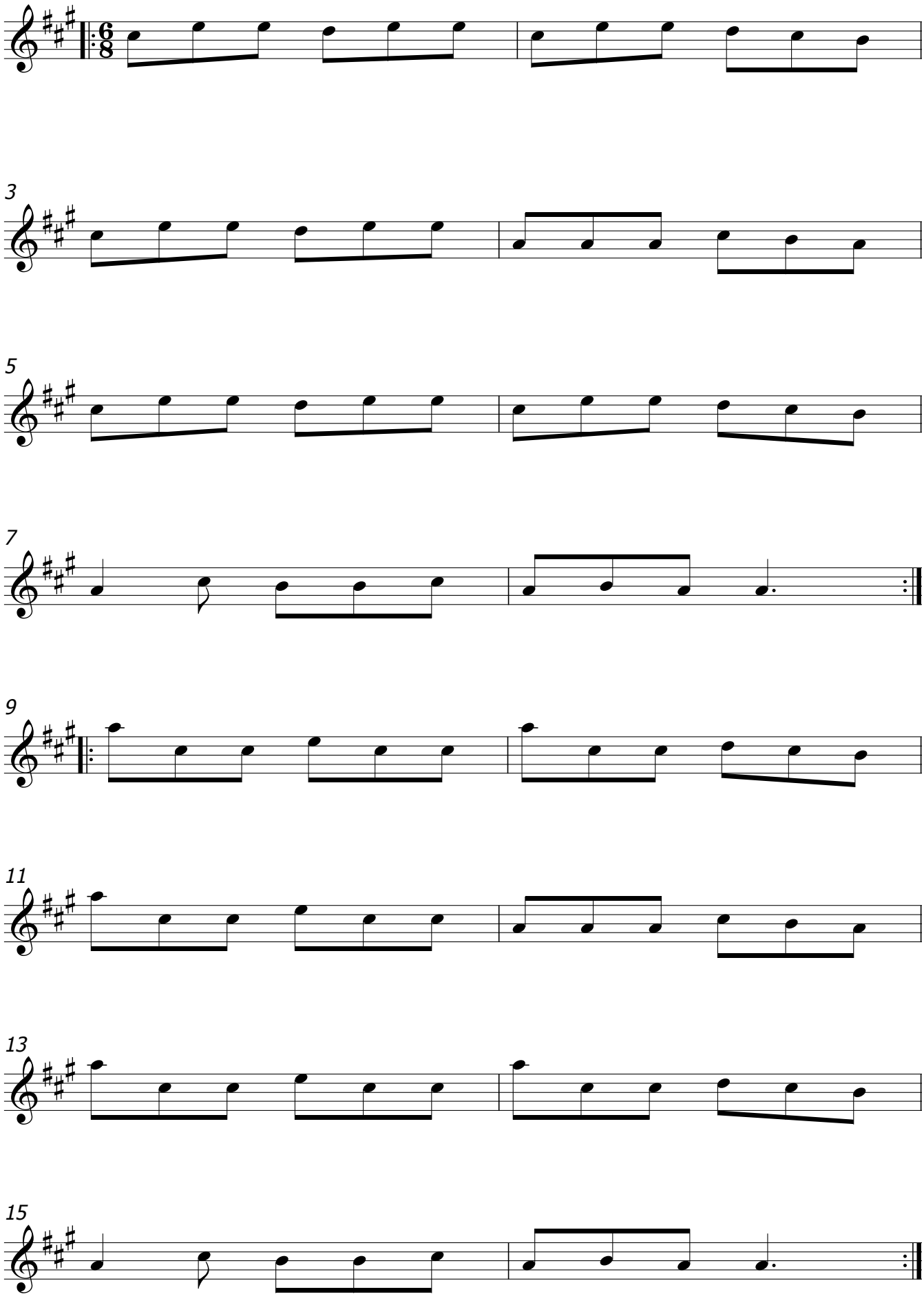


The Humours of Whiskey (Grade 3)

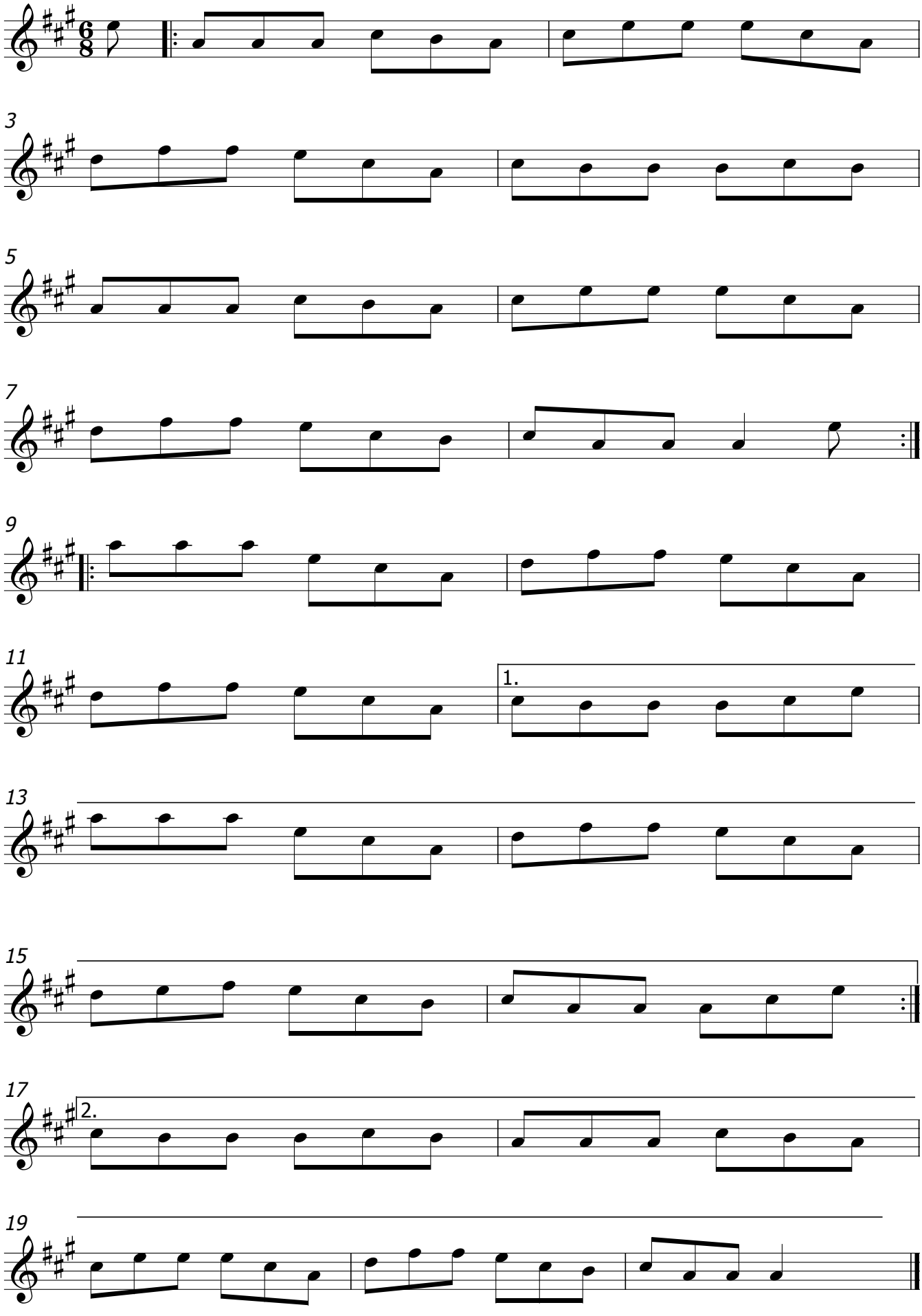


Boys of Ballymoat (Grade 3)

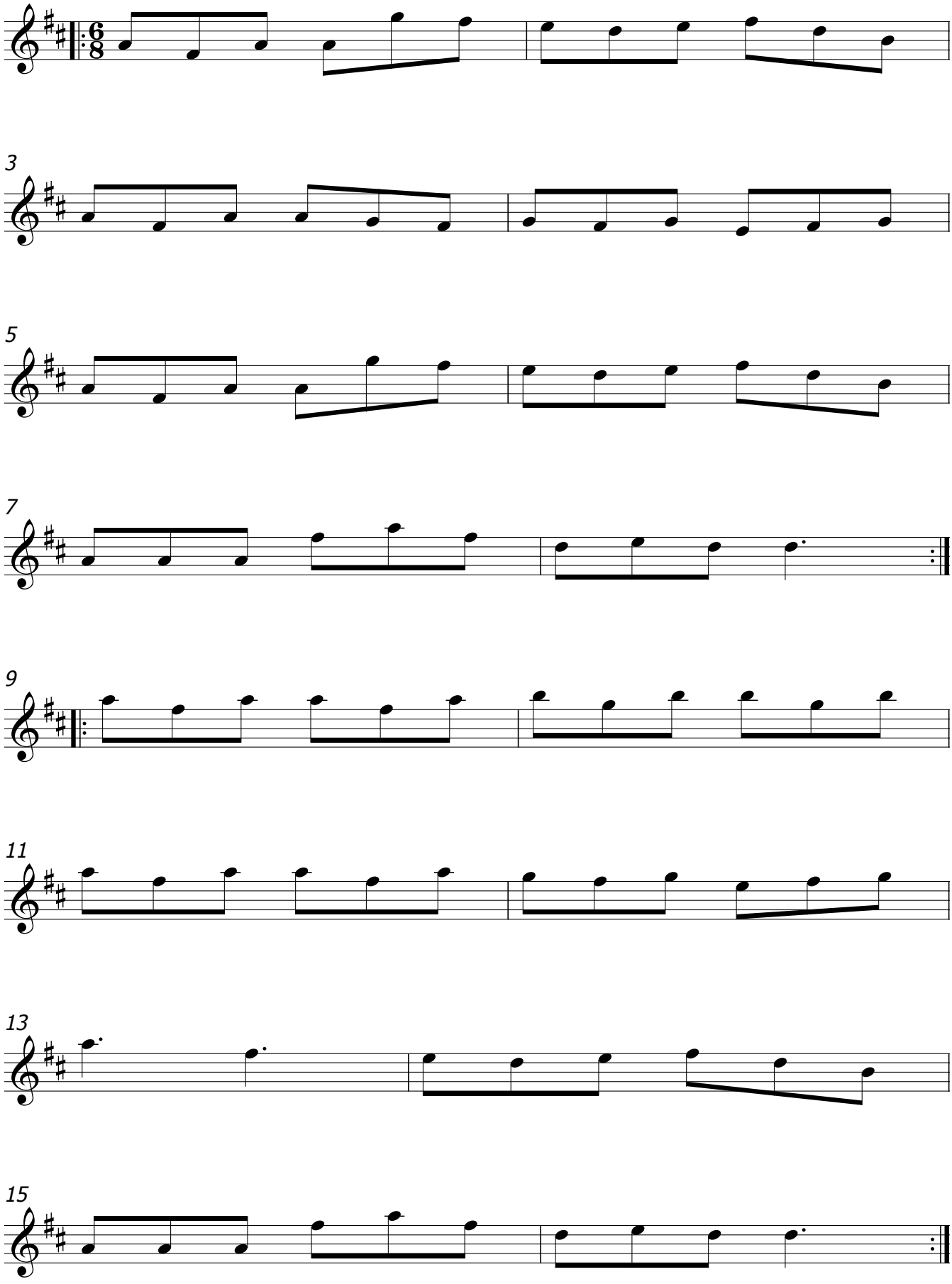
Rocking the Baby (Grade 3)



The Eavesdropper (Grade 3)

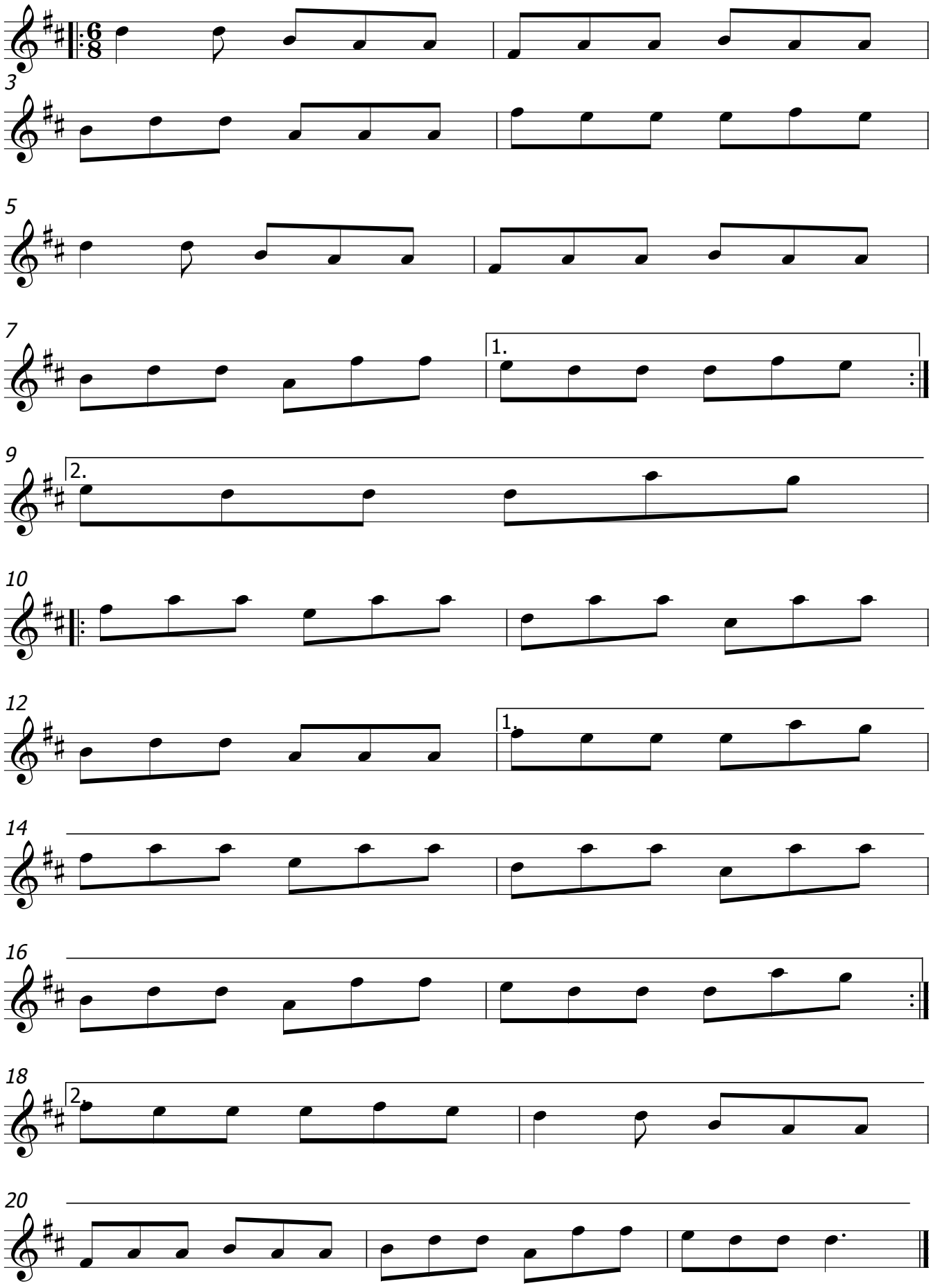


Haste to the Wedding (Grade 3)

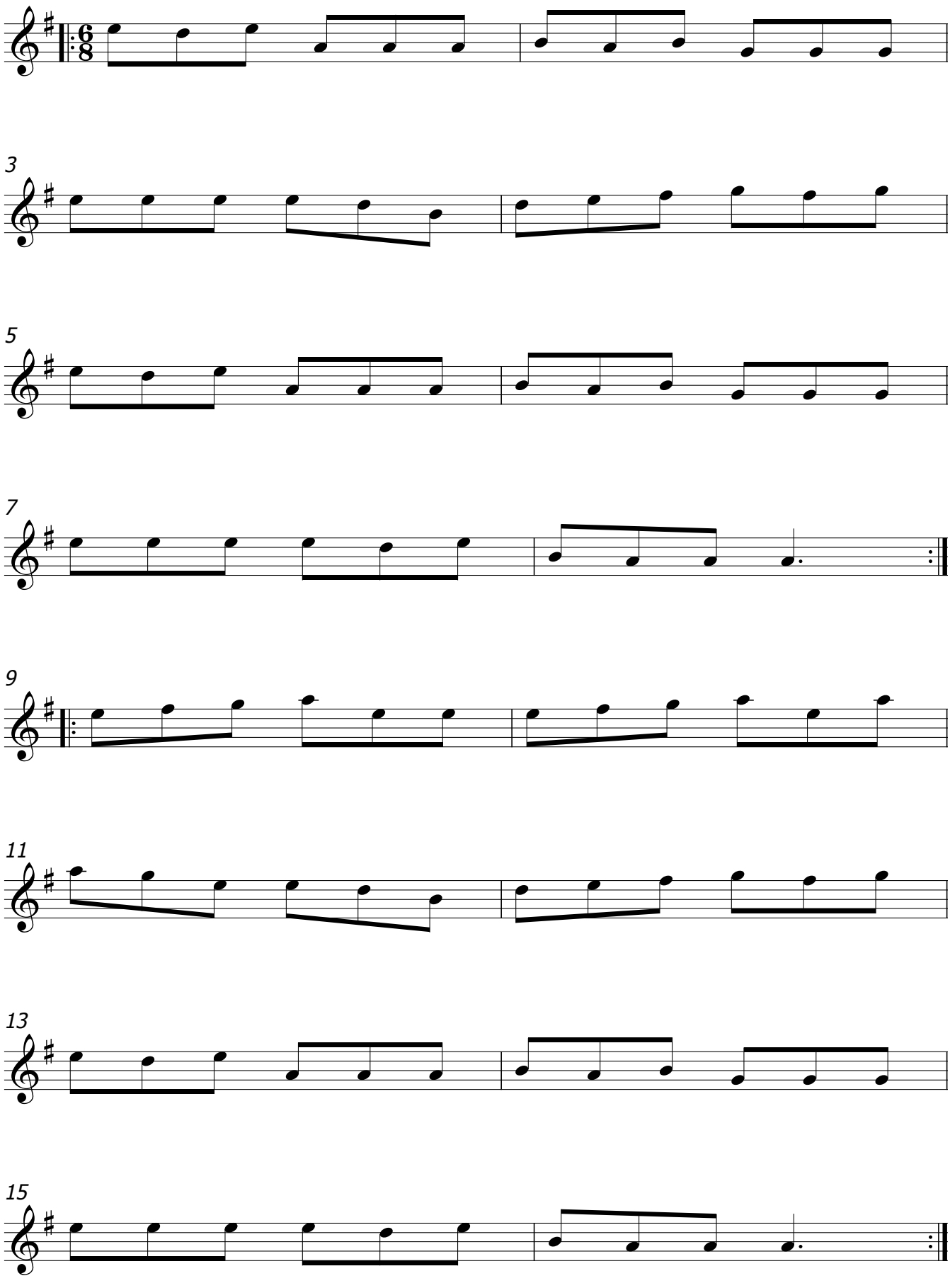


The Jig Runrig (Grade 3)

[comp Fergie Macdonald]



Price of a Pig (Grade 3)



Kenny MacDonald's Jig (Grade 3) [comp PM Peter MacFarquhar]

Hugaibh Oirbh (Grade 2)

'S iomadh rud a chunna mi (Grade 2)

Ì bhi ada (Grade 2)

Far am bi mi fhìn (Grade 1)

'S iomadh rud tha dhìth orm (Grade 3)

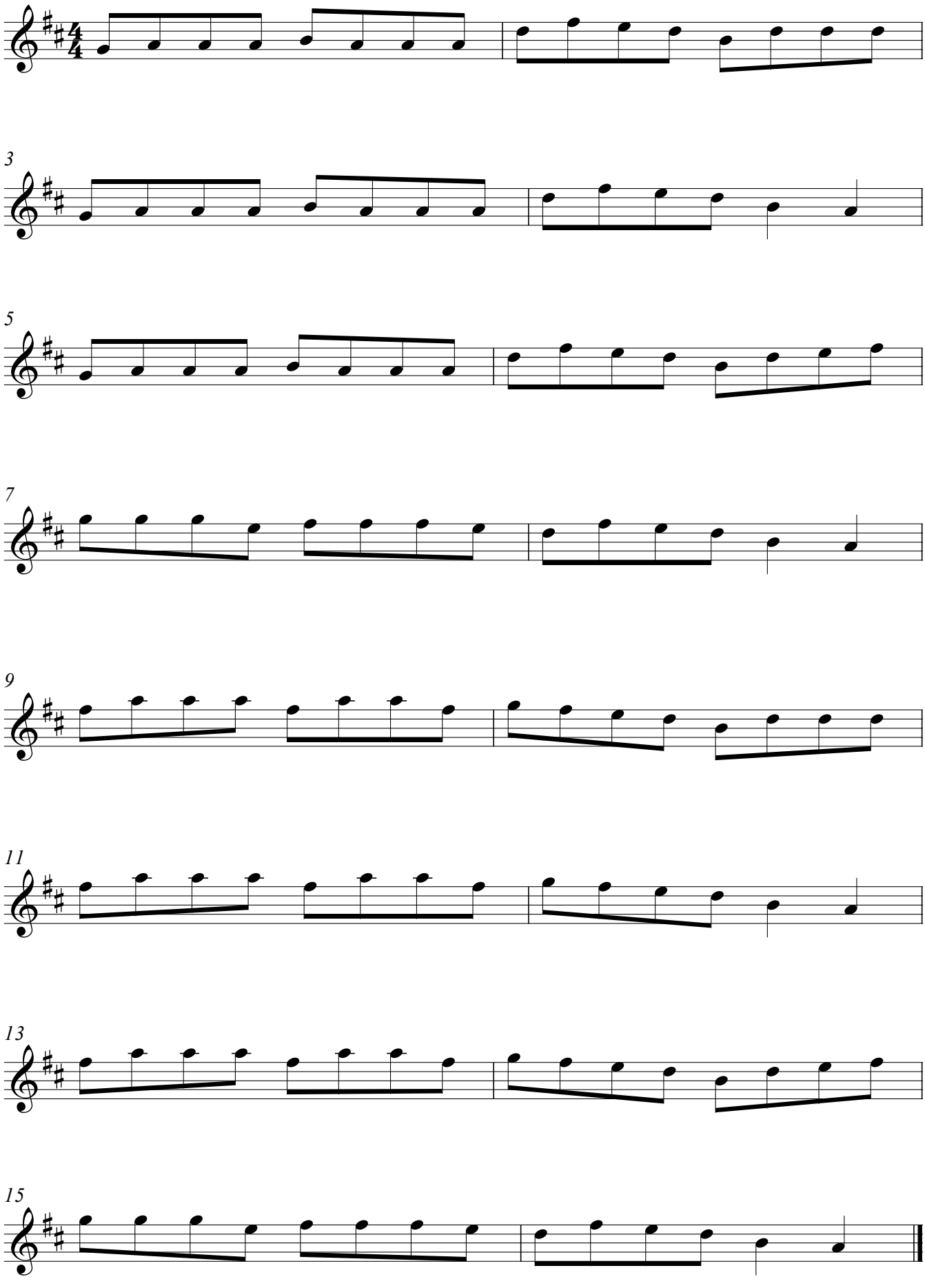
'S ann an Ìle (Grade 3)

Innis dhomh-sa cà'il thu cadal (Grade 3)

Mrs MacLeod of Raasay (Grade 3)

The Silver Spire (Grade 3)

REEL

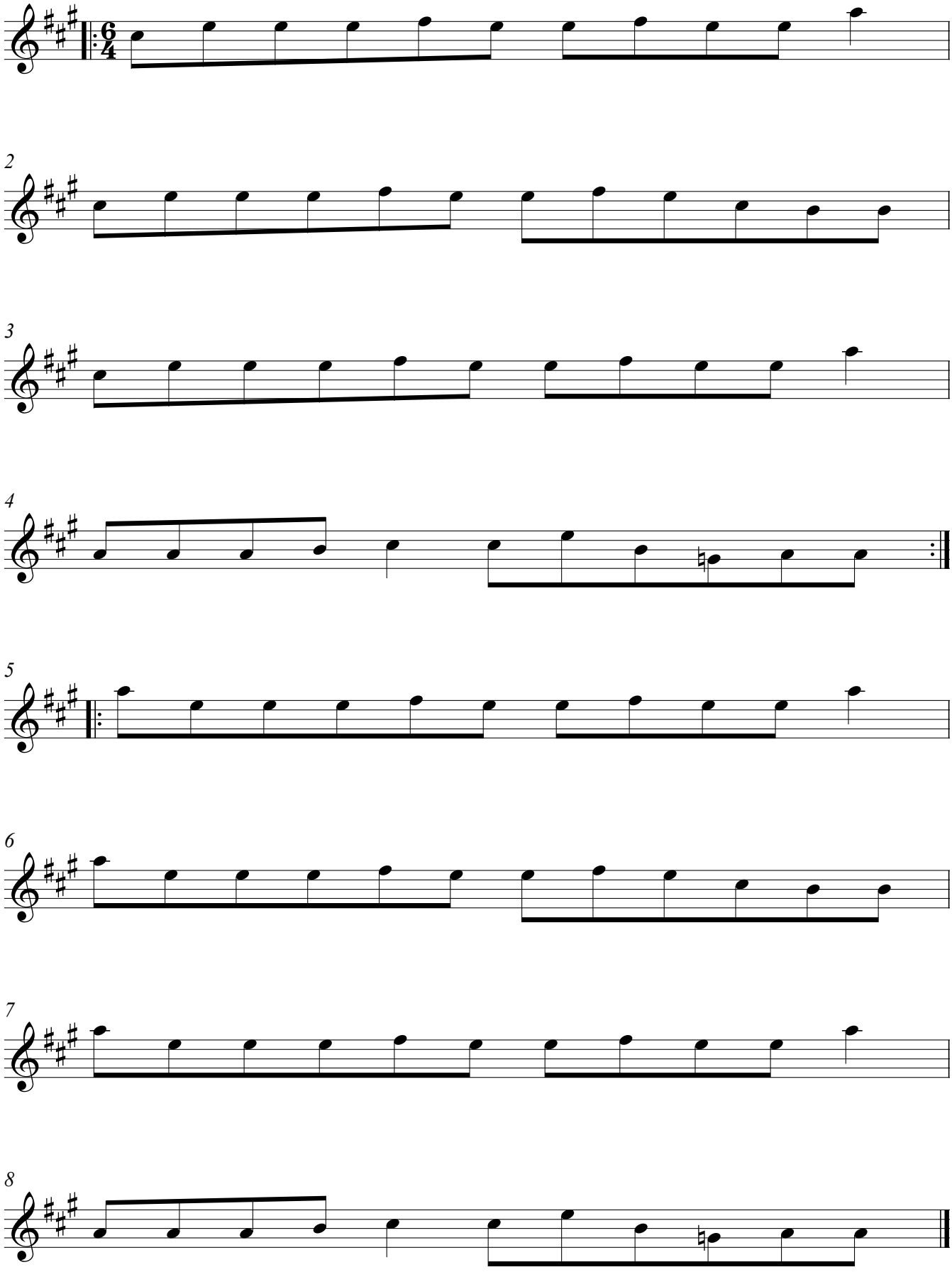


The Sound of Sleat (Grade 3)

[comp D MacKinnon]

Tail Toddle (Grade 3)

An Drochaid Chliùteach (Grade 3)



Dòmhnall beag an t-siùcair (Grade 3)

(The High Road to Linton)

The Ale is Dear (Grade 3)

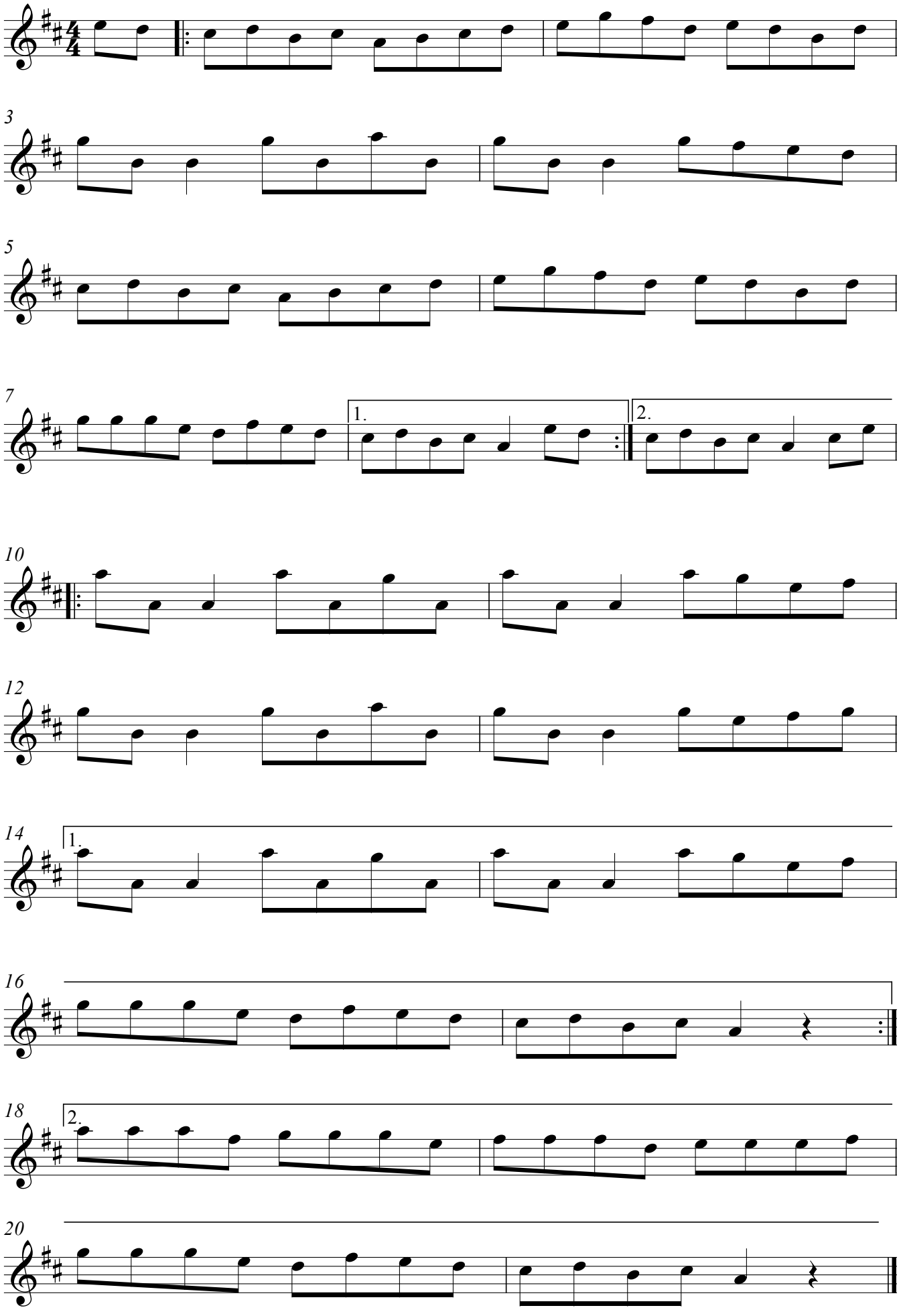
Lexy MacAskill (Grade 4)

[comp Dr John MacInnes]

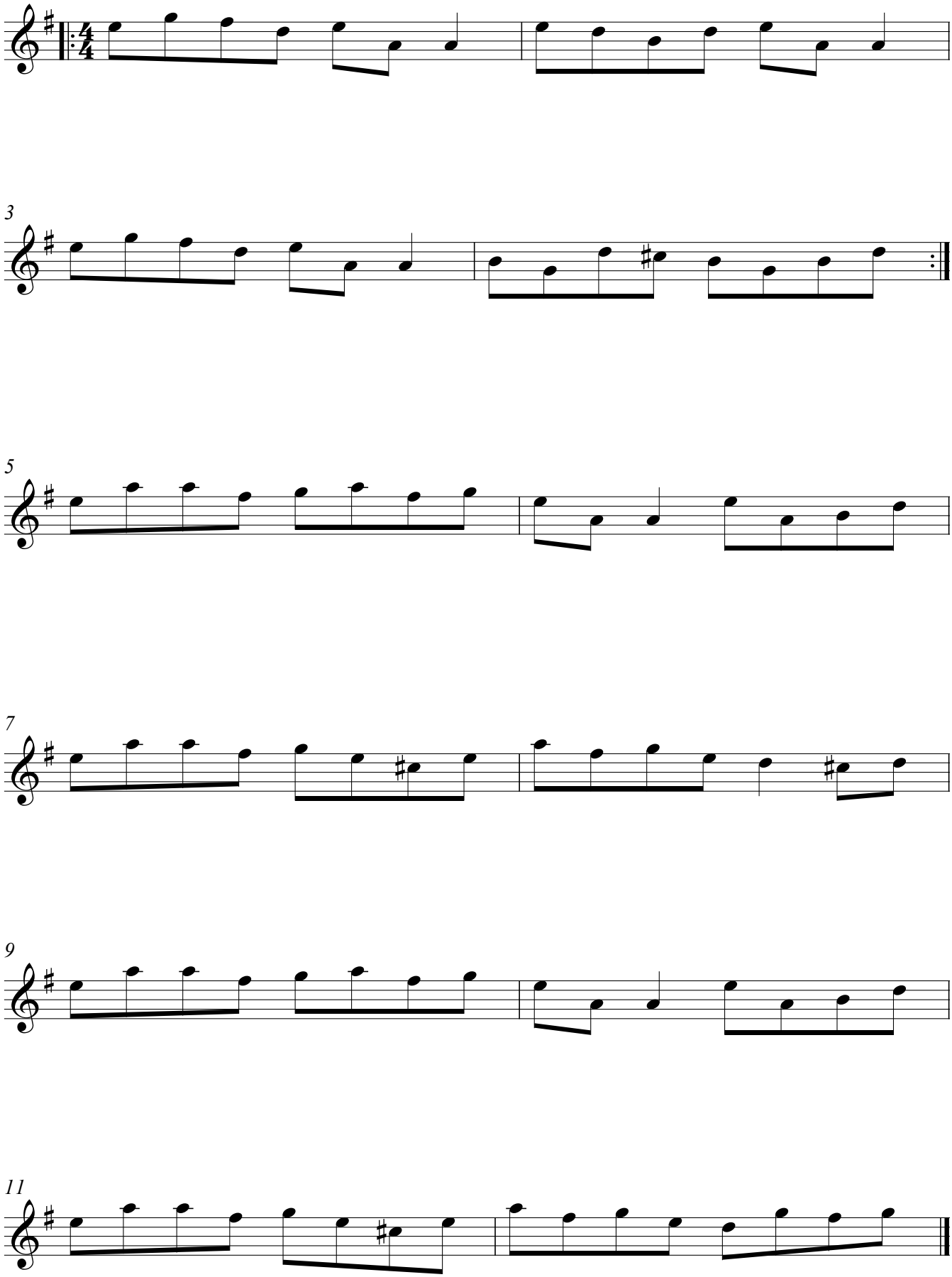
Buntàta's Sgadan (Grade 4)

[comp Allan Macdonald]

Dinky's (Grade 4)



In and Out the Harbour (Grade 4)



Molly Rankin's (Grade 4)