

# **Teachers' Association Scotland**

**Leaflet 2**

**Modern  
Developments in  
Recorded Music**

## Modern Developments in Recorded Music

As with all areas of modern life, there are certain **terminologies** which have to be understood in order to make sense of the options available. For computer based music these are:-

**mp3** – this is one of the formats in which music is held on the computer, there is no need to understand what that format is, just that it is called mp3.

**mp3 player** - a small device (fits in the hand) which holds music in the mp3 format.

**iPod** – the original mp3 player, the one which is produced by the Apple Computer Company.

**iTunes database** – the place where the music held on your computer can be grouped, classified and selected. There are other similar databases from other manufacturers, iTunes is produced by the Apple Computer Company but will run on a Microsoft PC.

**Playlist** – a selection of tunes from the iTunes database which are selected for a particular purpose, eg a class.

**Synchronise** – when the iPod or mp3 player is connected to the computer and the information on the iTunes database is put on the iPod or mp3 player.

### Getting Music into iTunes.

1) from CDs – if the iTunes database is open on the computer, and you insert a CD into the CD drive, iTunes will detect the CD and, providing your computer is connected to the internet, will access the Gracenotes database which is held centrally, and will find the details of the tracks, giving track titles, length of time the track lists, artist, CD title and genre. Country Dance CDs are given various different Genres ranging from world music, folk, and pop. iTunes will ask if you want to import the tracks, and when you click on 'yes' it will do so in significantly less time than it takes to play the CD.

2) buying music on line – there is still only a small number of country dance music tracks available on line, [www.musicinscotland.com](http://www.musicinscotland.com) has some and there are a few in the 'iTunes Store' which is accessible from the iTunes database. There may be others but I am not aware of any.

3) records and tapes – if you have software (and appropriate cables) you can record the music from tapes and LPs, but it is unlikely that the track details will be in the Gracenotes database, so you will most likely have to type the information in.

### Using iTunes to select music for a dance class and create a Playlist

Below is an example of an iTunes screen, with the track names in alphabetical order. There is no problem having more than one track with the same name, 'The' and 'A' are ignored in the sorting.

It is therefore easy to find music for the dance you want to teach, and if you have more than one track with the appropriate music, you can listen to them in iTunes and decide which is preferable. When the music is selected it can be dragged into the Playlist you create for the class. Select File, New Playlist and give it a name.

Name	Time	Album	Artist	Genre	Album Artist
Back to The Fireside	4:51	cd62 Eight Dances from Book 38	Muriel Johnstone Ensemble	R(8x32)	
Backstage	2:36	Something`S Gotten Hold Of My Heart	Gene Pitney	Easy Liste...	
Bad to Me	2:19	old 45s	Billy J. Kramer & The Dakotas	Pop	
The Baldovan Jig	4:43	cd64 Scottish Dance Time	Stan Hamilton and his Flyin...	J(8x32)	
Baldovan Jig (1 4x32)	2:25	cd32 Highlander Scottish Dances Vol 1	Sandy Nixon	J(4x32)	
Baldovan Reel	2:22	cd73 Meet the Olympians	Olympian Scottish Dance B...	R(4x32)	
Baldovan Reel	2:18	cd81 Caledonian Ball Vol 3	Rob Gordon And His Band	R(4x32)	
BALDOVAN SQUARE (3x32)5	3:12	cd106 HIGHLANDER MUSIC Vol. 12	Marian Anderson's Scottish...	S(3x32)	
Balmoral Strathspey	4:13	Book 22 RSCDS	David Cunningham	S(4x32)	
Balmoral Strathspey	4:01	cd15 Ron Kerr Plays The St Andrews Ball	Ron Kerr	S(4x32)	
Balnain House	5:11	cd95 Special Requests Volume 6	Colin Dewar And His Scotti...	S(4x40)	
Balnain House (Strathspey Set) (4...	5:15	cd110 A' The Best Fae Banffshire	Colin Dewar And His Band	S(4x40)	
Balquidder Strathspey	8:17	Book 23 RSCDS	Muriel Johnstone's & Colin ...	S(8x32)	
The Band Played Waltzing Matilda	6:24	Folk Heritage II	June Tabor	Folk	
Bank Street Reel	2:28	cd28 The Complete Caledonian Ball	Rob Gordon And His Band	R(4x32)	
The Banks Of Claudy	4:45	The Best Of Scottish Folk	Alex Campbell	Folk	
The Banks of the Clyde	8:43	cd69 2nd Memory Lane	Various Artists	S(8x32)	
The Bannetstane	2:23	cd28 The Complete Caledonian Ball	Rob Gordon And His Band	J(4x32)	
Barley Bree	2:58	Book 13 RSCDS	Bobby Crowe And His Scot...	J(4x40)	
The Barmkin	1:44	cd99 From Tapes	Various Artists	R(1x88)	
The Barmkin (1x88 Reel)	1:48	cd105 Live In Moffat	The Willie McRobert Scdb	R(1x88)	
Barn Dance	2:56	cd71 Dancing Thro' Scotland	Max Houliston & His Scottis...	Ceilidh	
Barn dance	3:34	cd31 Note 'n' Away	Nicol McLaren & the Glencr...	Ceilidh	
The Barnyards Of Delgaty	2:08	Scottish Traditional Tunes	MacColl, Ewan	World	
The Barnyards Of Delgaty	1:51	20 Best Of Scotland	Noel McLoughlin	Folk	

If you are teaching a dance for which you do not have the correct music, the easiest way to find one is to click on the 'Genre' column to sort tracks into order.

Name	Time	Album	Artist	Genre	Album Artist
Blooms Of Bon Accord	2:32	cd57 Special Requests Vol 3	Colin Dewar	R(4x32) 2 chords	
Hills Of Alba, THE [2 Ch] (4x32)R	2:32	cd110 A' The Best Fae Banffshire	Colin Dewar And His Band	R(4x32) 2 chords	Ri
Come Ashore Jolly TAR (1/2) [2ch]...	2:35	cd4 Nice To See You	Ian Cruickshanks & His Band	R(4x32) 2 chords	
RAY Milbourne [2ch] (4x32)R	2:28	cd115 Tribute To Derek Haynes	Nicol McLaren	R(4x32) 2 chords	
The Angus Reel	2:35	cd28 The Complete Caledonian Ball	Rob Gordon And His Band	R(4x32) 2 chords	
Blooms Of Bon Accord (R 4x32)	2:34	cd32 Highlander Scottish Dances Vol 1	Sandy Nixon	R(4x32) 2 chords	
Borders Revisited	2:21	cd99 From Tapes	Various Artists	R(4x32) 2 chords	
MacPHAIL'S Reels (Reel Set) (4x40)R	3:02	cd110 A' The Best Fae Banffshire	Colin Dewar And His Band	R(4x40)	
FAREWELL TO BROADFORD (4x40)R	3:06	cd114 VALLIN SUITE two	David Cunningham	R(4x40)	
RIBBLE VALLEY REVELLERS (4x40)R	3:05	cd114 VALLIN SUITE two	David Cunningham	R(4x40)	
Lord McLAY'S Reel (4x40)R	3:01	cd16 All Set	David Cunningham Jr. & ...	R(4x40)	
Lord Mclay's Reel (4x40)R	3:08	cd4 Nice To See You	Ian Cruickshanks & His Band	R(4x40)	
The Blue Ribbon	3:01	Book 8 RSCDS	Jim Macleod & His Band	R(4x40)	
THE QUEEN'S BRIDGE (4x40)R	3:05	cd106 HIGHLANDER MUSIC Vol. 12	Marian Anderson's Scottish...	R(4x40)	
Buckinghamshire Lass (4x40)R	3:04	cd113 Kangaroo Paw	Marian Anderson And Her ...	R(4x40)	
Reel Set	3:00	cd37 Strictly Scottish Vol One	Robert Whitehead	R(4x40)	
Prince Charles of Edinburgh	2:56	cd80 Come Scottish Country Dancing ...	Robert Whitehead	R(4x40)	
Lord Maclay's Reel	3:00	cd107 Highlander Scottish Dances Vol 13	Robert Whitehead & The D...	R(4x40)	
Dancing in 2000 4x40R	3:04	cd89 Dancers Choice 2	Robt Whitehead & Danela...	R(4x40)	
Deveron Reel	3:00	cd20 Highlander Scottish Dances Vol 9	Sandy Legget	R(4x40)	
The Queen's Bridge	2:44	cd102 From Tapes	Various Artists	R(4x40)	
THE Train Journey North (2 Ch) (4...	3:01	cd29 Craigievar Dances	Nicol McLaren & the Glencr...	R(4x40) 2 chords	
Celtic Cross (4x48)R	3:41	cd27 Etive Selection	Alastair Hunter And The Lo...	R(4x48)	
A Toast TO Saint Andrews (4x48)R	3:34	Come Scottish Country Dancing (Ar)	Andrew Rankine And His B...	R(4x48)	
A Toast to St Andrews	3:37	cd76 Come Scottish Country Dancing ...	Andrew Rankine and his Sc...	R(4x48)	
The Birks of Abergeldie	3:37	Book 9 RSCDS	Bobby Crowe And His Scot...	R(4x48)	
La Tempete	3:34	Moffat Collectio	Bobby Crowe And His Scot...	R(4x48)	
Earl of Mansfield	3:26	Moffat Collectio	Bobby Crowe And His Scot...	R(4x48)	
Earl of Mansfield	3:26	Moffat Collectio	Bobby Crowe And His Scot...	R(4x48)	
Earl Of Mansfield	3:39	cd25 Special Requests Vol 4	Colin Dewar	R(4x48)	
Distillery Reel	3:34	cd25 Special Requests Vol 4	Colin Dewar	R(4x48)	
The Periwiq	3:32	cd1 RSCDS 75th Anniversary Dances	Craig McCallum And His Sc...	R(4x48)	

It is possible to alter all the information in iTunes, except the track length time. The Genre column is the one I use to enter the music type and repetitions, these I obviously have to type in.

If I was looking for a 4x40 reel I can see instantly which tracks I have and select one which is suitable. By looking at the track times, it is easy to see if a track is going to be much too fast or too slow. This and other columns can be used to enter any information which you consider useful.

### **Altering the Speed of Music.**

It is possible to alter the speed of music, either slowing it down or speeding it up. There are many software packages available to do this, we use WavePad which is a very comprehensive package allowing editing down to changing a single note, but there are simpler packages which are best discovered by recommendation from someone using them. Once tunes have been changed they can be put into iTunes and kept alongside the original.

### **Playing Music in Class**

This is down to personal preference.

It is possible to play music from iTunes on a laptop for class, however the sound quality from a laptop is not very good and also not very loud, so speakers are needed to make the sound adequate. It is possible of course, with a laptop to scan in all your dance instructions and have them available as well.

The other alternative is to use an mp3 player or iPod and a speaker specially designed to play from the mp3 player. I use a Bose Sounddock, there are many others on the market but check the output as some are designed for use at home, not in a hall. The advantage of this is the light weight, the whole weighing no more than a bag of sugar, and I still have all my music so I can change my lesson at short notice if necessary, the only limitation being whether or not I can remember the dances!