

Essential Hornpipes

The Westcoaster (Aonghas Grant)

Musical score for "The Westcoaster" (Aonghas Grant) in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the following chords: G, G, Am, D7. The second staff contains: G, Em, Am, D7, G. The third staff contains: G, G, Am, Am, D7. The fourth staff contains: G, Em, Am, D7, G. There are several triplet markings (3) throughout the piece.

The High Level Hornpipe (James Hill)

Musical score for "The High Level Hornpipe" (James Hill) in Bb major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains: Bb, Bb, F7, F7. The second staff contains: Bb, Bb, Eb, F7, Bb, and ends with "FINE". The third staff contains: F, F, Bb, Bb. The fourth staff contains: C, C, F, C7, F7, C7. The instruction "DC al Fine" is placed at the end of the fourth staff.

The piece is named after Newcastle's famous bridge across the River Tyne linking Newcastle and Gateshead, the first important rail crossing in Britain designed to carry more than two tracks. It was begun in 1846, opened in 1849 and replaced a bridge that had been built in 1781. The High Level, designed by Robert Stephenson, was based on a series of cast iron bowstring arches springing from tall stone piers; each of the six main spans stretched for 125 feet, the length of the whole being 1,372 feet, well over a quarter of a mile. It was a marvel of the age, and so splendid that Queen Victoria herself performed the opening ceremonies.