

A Selection of Tunes and Exercises

It is time to start on the process of real improvement and begin practicing some tunes linked to tab. A few steady but interesting melodies, with full tabulation and some tips along the way, will allow you to feel your way around what is possibly a new way of playing. The need to cross the rows in order to get fluency will be discussed at length.

These will be for the C and G system Anglo but if you play a G and D concertina the same fingering will still produce the tune but in a different key. By referring to the alternative key chart on page 39, you will soon realise which key you are playing in on a concertina in scales other than C and G.

A large number of traditional music enthusiasts are or have been involved with morris and other ritual dance. The music associated with these forms is often played on melodeon or piano accordion and has in many cases been transposed from the key of C major into G or D. The historical basis for playing in the key of C is really down to one great Anglo player, William Kimber of Headington Quarry, Oxford. The shift to other keys has enabled a wider range of instrumentation and, after all, that is the kind of progress upon which the folk revival is firmly based. Have you ever witnessed Martin Carthy playing guitar for Bampton Morris? It simply adds weight to the argument that it can be played on any instrument that is portable, acoustic and, very importantly, played with integrity. Here then are some morris tunes for the Anglo in keys other than C major.

G major

Young Collins ~ Bledington in G major

The image shows three systems of musical notation for the tune 'Young Collins ~ Bledington in G major'. Each system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). Below each staff is a line of fingerings represented by squares. Solid black squares indicate fingerings for the right hand (1R, 2R), and open squares indicate fingerings for the left hand (1L, 2L, 3L, 4L). The first system has 16 notes with fingerings: 1L 1L 1R 1R 2R 2R 1R 2R 1L 1R 1R 2R 2R 2R 1R 1R 1L 1L. The second system has 16 notes with fingerings: 2L 3L 2L 4L 1L 1L 1L 1L 1R 1L 1R 1R 2R 2R 2R 2R. Below the second system is the instruction 'G'row'. The third system has 16 notes with fingerings: 1L 1L 1R 1R 2R 2R 1R 2R 1L 1R 1R 2R 2R 2R 1R 1R 1L 1L.