

Hole in the Wall

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

The musical score for 'Hole in the Wall' is presented in three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 3/2 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: Bb, F, Gm, Dm, Eb, Bb, Eb, F, Bb. The second staff starts at measure 5 and continues the melody. Above it, the chords are: Gm, C, D, Gm, D, Cm, D, Gm. The third staff starts at measure 9 and concludes the piece. Above it, the chords are: Eb, F, Gm, F, Bb, F, Bb. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Hole in the Wall might be the most frequently used English country dance found in period-piece films and television productions. Both the music and dance instructions are in Henry Playford's **The Second Part of the Dancing Master** of 1698, and appear in other notable publications of the time. The music is by the magnificent, prolific and short-lived Henry Purcell (1659-1695), from his 'Abdelazar' suite, in which the piece functions as incidental music. There are over 30 English Country Dance tunes by Purcell, which were given steps by the dancing masters. The 3/2 hornpipe of the Baroque era was often set by English composers, one from Handel's Water Music being among the most well-known compositions in this genre.

There is also a type of dance-step called the Hole in the Wall cross, named after one of the cross-moves in the original dance.

Hole in the Wall is also a descriptive name for a small pub or tavern.