Scotch Cap



The tune Scotch Cap, also known as Edinburgh Castle, was published by John Playford in the first edition of the English Dancing Master (1651), and lasted through the 10th edition of 1698.

A Scotch Cap might refer to a hat or bonnet, or perhaps a nightcap, a prisoner's leather facecovering, or a black raspberry (Rubis occidentalis).

It is also speculated that the name derives from the 1633 visit of Charles 1 to be be crowned (the Cap) in Edinburgh Castle. He insisted on full Anglican rites in an attempt to bring the Scottish church into line with the Church of England. All he managed to do was infuriate the Scots (and their supporters in London) and cause himself ultimately fatal political problems.

This melody is in D Dorian - the pattern of notes if you start on D, and play a scale with no sharps or flats.