

Easter Thursday

1733

The musical score is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/2 time signature. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has four measures with chords Dm, Am, Bb, and F. The second system starts at measure 5 and has ten measures with chords Gm, Dm, Gm, Dm, A, Dm, Dm, Gm, and C. The third system starts at measure 9 and has ten measures with chords F, Bb, E°, A, Dm, Am, Dm, Gm, Dm, A, and Dm. The final measure of the third system is marked 'last time' and ends with a double bar line.

Triple-time “Hornpipes” originated in the north of England in the late 17th century, and first started appearing as dance tunes in the early 1700s. This tune for Easter Thursday was published with dance instructions in J. Young (1726), J Walsh (c 1733), and Wright’s collection (1742).

In the tradition of the Church of England, the service of Royal Maundy is held the Thursday of Easter week. The ceremony dates to Medieval times, when the English monarch would wash the feet of beggars in imitation of Christ, and distribute food and clothing to the poor. The feet-washing part of the ceremony did not survive the 18th century, and money has since substituted for the distribution of food and clothing, but it carries on. Under Queen Elizabeth, the service has become the occasion of a royal pilgrimage to different parts of the country, and is the only occasion on which the Queen visits others to make awards