

# The Iron Man

FIDDLE STRATHSPEY

*James Scott Skinner (1843-1927)*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of four staves of music. Above the first staff, the notes A, E, A, A, E, A, D, A, D, A, E are written above the notes. Above the second staff, the notes A, E, A, A, E, A, D, A, E, A are written above the notes. Above the third staff, the notes A, E are written above the notes. Above the fourth staff, the notes A, D, A, Bm, E, A are written above the notes. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' below the notes) and a final double bar line.



J.S. Skinner wrote this tune to honor his friend and benefactor, William F. McHardy, who was the Laird of Drumblair Estate in Northeast Scotland and an iron magnate. McHardy provided Skinner with a rent-free cottage in which to live.

A very scratchy recording still exists of Skinner performing the tune in the early 1900s.

Skinner was a major figure in the development of Scottish traditional music and the self-proclaimed “Strathspey King.” A native of Banchory, he learned to play the violin and cello from an early age and was performing at local dances from the age of eight. He went on to become a celebrated fiddle teacher, dancing-master, and performer. He gave concerts initially in Northeast Scotland, and eventually throughout the whole of the country. He even toured the United States and Canada in 1893. Skinner was also a prolific composer: over 600 of his tunes were published in various collections.

In this setting, a “Scots snap” has been added to the third beat of the 1st and 2nd bars. It is customary to play the triplets with a slight lilt by lengthening the first and shortening the second notes.