






Celtic Dance Tunes: It's all about the beats!  
Janet Witman for Harp Gathering Workshop 2021

- Type of dance tune:                      - Rhythmic Patterns/Quirks/Examples:
1. March                                      -Slow and stately  
Can be set in 4/4 Ex: Scotland the Brave (Pipe M.)  
OR 6/8 (felt in 2) Quick March Ex: Atholl Highlanders
  
  2. The Jig is Up!                            "Jig-i-ty, Jig-i-ty"     
    - a. Double jig "regular"                -In 6/8- felt in 2: "carrots and cabbages"  
(most common)                              Quick with a lilt Ex. Morrison's Jig  

  
    - b. Slip jig or Hop jig                      -In 9/8- an added step, felt in 3:   
"carrots and cabbages yum" Ex. The Butterfly
  
    - c. Slide or single jig                      -In 12/8- felt in 4, faster than double jig  
A SINGLE measure has 12- 8<sup>th</sup> notes as unit. Ex. Swallowtail  
"Hump-ty, Dump-ty sat on a wall"  

  
  3. Hornpipe                                      -In 4/4 with lots of dotted rhythms/triplets  
Can use "swing" 8<sup>th</sup> notes! Ex. Harvest Home
  
  4. Reel    - In fast 4/4, felt in 2 or cut time, forward moving  
"black 'n decker, black 'n decker"  
Ex. Spootiskerry
  
  5. Strathspey                                      - In moderate 4/4- filled with short dotted rhythms  
Scots or Scotch Snap: "budd'um dee"   
Ex. Orange and Blue (Brochan Lom)
  
  6. Waltz    -In 3/4, Airs/ballads are often adapted into waltzes  
Ex. Star of the County Down
  
  7. Other dance forms for later! Polkas, mazurkas, highland fling, schottische  
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