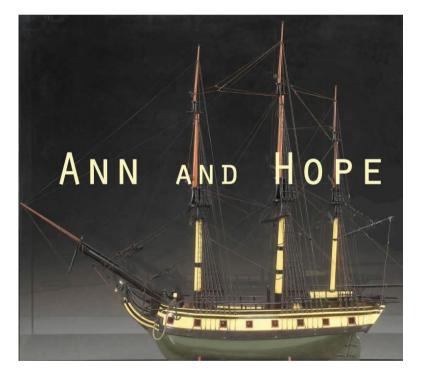
# A Collection of Ship's Music from 1798 to 1800

As recorded in the journal of

## **Benjamin Carter**,

Ship's Surgeon on



from Providence, Rhode Island to Canton

Discovered by Don Brian Arranged by Dave Johnson December 2017

## **Background Notes**

Sue and Don Brian came across this log when researching American whaling and sealing ships that came to Norfolk Island. The **Ann and Hope** possibly did call at Norfolk Island but the only reference discovered to date is its position in a log. Robert Langdon, in his American Whalers and Traders in the Pacific (1978) reported the Ann and Hope at Norfolk Island on 17th May 1800 and that her captain was Christopher Bently. She may have been carrying seal skins to Canton, China.

This reference led them on a number of other research threads, particularly the tune transcriptions and reference to Aboriginal languages at Port Jackson as recorded in Benjamin Carter's Log.

### The Ann and Hope

Master ship builder, Benjamin Tallman, constructed the ship **Ann and Hope** at Providence, Rhode Island in the USA for the newly formed partnership of Brown and Ives. This merchant ship of 550 tons was named after the wives of Nicholas Brown, Jr. and Thomas Poynton Ives. She was an "elegant copper ship" and carried 12 guns and a crew of fifty-seven. The Ann and Hope made five voyages for the firm from 1798 through 1804 before she was wrecked off Block Island. A new ship Ann & Hope was constructed in 1806 – 1807, and made thirteen voyages from 1808 until 1836, remaining in service longer than any other vessel owned by the firm.

### **Benjamin Carter**

The log of the **Ann and Hope**'s maiden voyage gives a detailed account of the vessel's voyage to Canton by going around the coast of New South Wales. On board as surgeon was Ann Brown's brother, Benjamin Carter. It was not uncommon on long voyages on merchant ships and whalers to include a physician. When the ship docked at Port Jackson in 1798 Benjamin spent some time recording the words of aborigines at La Perouse.

Carter was clearly a God fearing man as shown by his introduction to the journal entries.

Ship **Ann and Hope** bound from Providence, Rhode Island on a voyage to Canton in China and back again. May God of his infinite mercy protect us, conduct us by his unerring wisdom through the pathless ocean, guard us safe from the voids, shoals, quicksands and enemies and bring our ship to her destined port at last. This request we make in the name and through the merits of his son our blessed Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Another entry reports on a near miss with similar piety. In a letter written from Whampoa, Canton Bay on 20 January 1800, Carter wrote that

the course steered must have precipitated us on the reefs or ashore; but the Deity, who regards the lives of the meanest of his creatures, tempered the winds contrary to our vain wishes; and at dawn, on surveying the dangers we had escaped in the night our sense of his wisdom and goodness was increased. He it was, and not our prudence and foresight, that preserved our barque from a fatal contact with the rocks and shoals which lurked so near us.

Presumably Carter had some musical training as he was musically literate and notated the shipboard music. Whether it was taken from the playing of on board musicians or his own repertoire we can only guess. Nevertheless he provides an interesting snapshot of music of this period, not dissimilar to that from the British navy ship's fiddler William Litten, with a similar smorgasbord of English, Irish, Scottish, French and American tunes.

### Notes on the music manuscript.

Carter's musical hand is generally quite legible though cramped at times. Occasionally there are passages that sound to my ear to be unlikely, and some bar counts are short giving tunes an awkwardness. When I have encountered this I have adjusted the tune as I considered appropriate. Others, such as the Marseilles Hymn, I have left as written in case the tune was historically played differently to the well known current La Marsellaise.

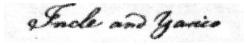
Sometimes the version of the tune shows variance from established current common versions. This is to be expected in an aurally transmitted process. Variants occurred as tunes were passed from musician to musician and instrument to instrument when crew changed and when ships were in port.

Variance in the length of lines in the staves and the treble clef differences show that the music was all penned by hand. Here is the Soldiers Joy that appeared in the journal.



Carter's handwriting is mostly clear and legible but it was occasionally difficult to interpret tune titles. A sample of general notes from the journal provided useful examples of letter shapes and letter variants that he used.

This one was especially vexing:



#### **Other Journal Entries**

The journal included many observations and has provided maritime scholars with interesting perspectives of the journeys. In one entry he documented the discoveries that were made by Captain Henry Bond on a journey in 1792. Why they appear in a 1798 journal is not apparent.

New discoveries made by the Royal Admiral.

A reef and breakers situated off the N and W of New Caledonia very powerful and dangerous. This is the most dangerous Shoal and the water so very smooth owing no doubt to its eastern extent that a ship might be on the reef presently and almost with the best look out.

The Long. of its NW extreme is 163° 38' from London's Lat. 15°4'S. Var 9°53'E

Barings Islands are 2 smaller islandsvery low covered with trees and which seem joined by a reef. They lie in Lat. 5°39'N. Long.155°8' E. Var 10° East.

Muskitto Group consists of about 20 smaller islands very low well covered with trees and full of Inhabitants. They are very low and dangerous. A ship in thick weather might run on the land reef without seeing land on either side. They lie nearly ????? by compass in Lat 7°20' on 7°47'N. Long. 168 .28. Eastern sides Var 10 ° E.

These discoveries were made by the royal admiral Captn Henry Bond in 1792 Js on his voyage from Port Jackson to Canton.

#### Finally

This music provides us with a snapshot of repertoire played at the turn from the seventeenth to the eighteenth centuries, a time when the settlement at Sydney Cove was still in its infancy. Music of sailors generally ignored the formality of borders and "good tunes" were passed eagerly from one to another when opportunities arose. Hopefully they will be of interest to fellow musicians. Try them and see...

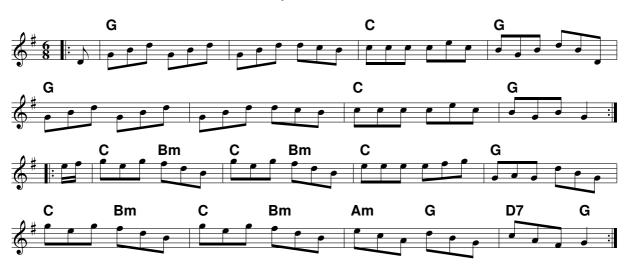
David Johnson

Dec 2017

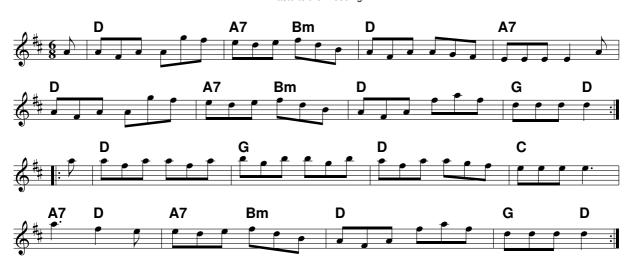
## Index

Tune	Page
Adams & Liberty	9
Belle Isle March	5
Black Plover	2
Captain Mackintosh's Fancy	8
Card Invites, The	3
Flower of Edinburgh, The	6
French March	4
Fresh and Strong	8
Greenfields	3
Hail Columbia	5
Incle And Garico	8
Jolly Mortals	9
La Caramanide	8
Ladies Breast Knot	7
Liberty Hall	3
Love Forever	6
Lovely Nancy	9
Maid of the Mill. The	3
Marseilles Hymn	5
My Dog and My Gun	7
New Lango Lee	1
O Dear What Can the Matter Be	2
Pantheon, The	7
Pioneers March	4
Rural Felicity	1
Scolding Wife	9
Scotch Air	9
Soldiers Joy	6
St Patricks day in the morning	2
Taylor Done Over	1
Washington's March	4

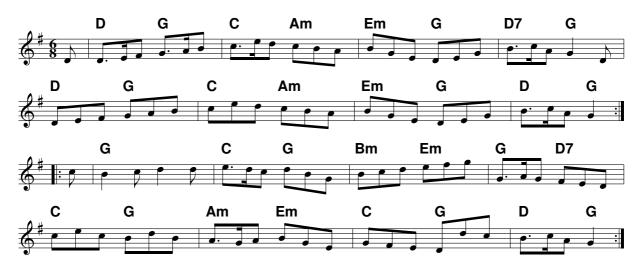
**Taylor Done Over** 



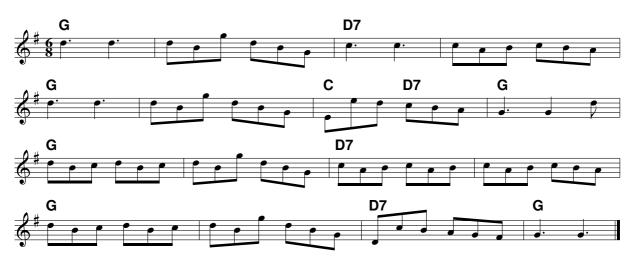
#### Rural Felicity Haste to the Wedding



#### New Lango Lee The Banks of the Dee



O Dear What Can the Matter Be



**Black Plover** 

NB 7bar A section

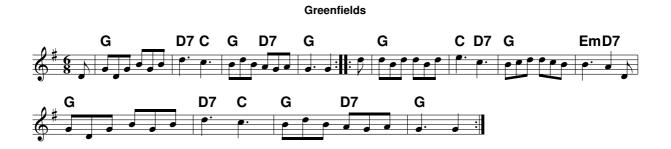






#### St Patricks day in the morning

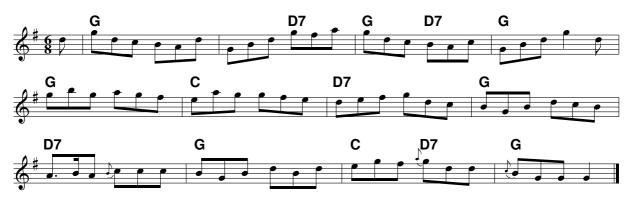




The Card Invites



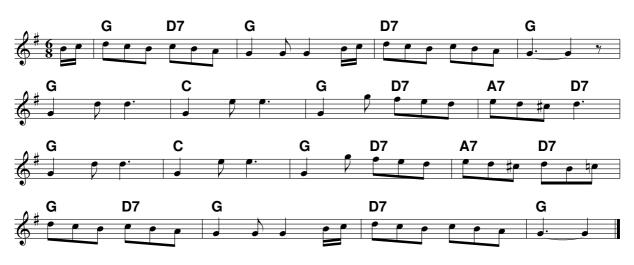
Liberty Hall



The Maid of the Mill



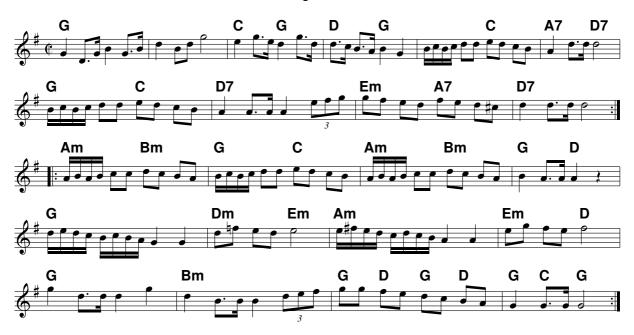
**Pioneers March** 



French March



Washington's March



Hail Columbia



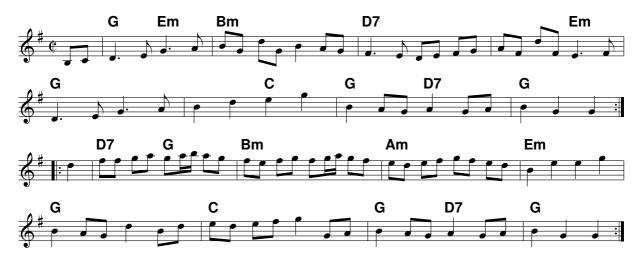
Soldiers Joy



D **A**7 #⊭с. ┍╴╏ 6 • P **A**7 Em A7 D D **A**7 D **A7** D A7 D A7 D Z ρ . A7 D **A**7 D D :

Love Forever

#### The Flower of Edinburgh



Ladies Breast Knot

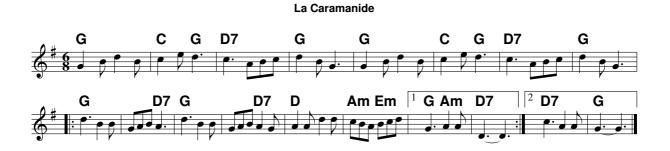


My Dog and My Gun



The Pantheon





Incle And Garico



Captain Mackintosh's Fancy



Fresh and Strong



Lovely Nancy



Scotch Air





**Scolding Wife** 



**Jolly Mortals** 

