

MUSIC REVIEWS

TURKEY IN THE STRAW,

ARR. PAUL ASHFORD. Lost in Time Press (<corlu@actionnet.net>), 2006.

S A A/T T. Sc 4 pp, pts 1 p ea. \$8.

FISHER'S HORNPIPE, ARR. PAUL

ASHFORD. Lost in Time Press, 2006.

S A A/T T. Sc 4 pp, pts 1 p ea. \$8.

LAMPLIGHTER'S HORNPIPE, ARR.

PAUL ASHFORD. Lost in Time Press, 2006.

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The recorder is a wonderfully versatile instrument, and this versatility endears it to a wide variety of musical genres. Most people don't think of the recorder as a folk instrument—but it undoubtedly is, and folk music is great fun to play on the recorder.

"Turkey in the Straw" is a classic American folk tune that dates from the early 19th century. When it became popularized by blackface performers, many people claimed to have written the song, and the dispute over who wrote it has never been resolved.

Authorship aside, when most people think of this tune, they think of fiddles rather than recorders—and, more often than not, they remember the version of the lyrics they learned during childhood. However, the cheerfulness the recorder quartet lends to this instrumental arrangement instantly wins people over and gets their feet tapping and their voices humming.

"Fisher's Hornpipe" purportedly originated in 18th-century England. It was played as a reel for dancers in the Shetland

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Islands of Scotland and is reminiscent of ancient Irish folk music. Many versions of this tune exist, including bluegrass versions. A flowing, melodious dance tune, it immediately grasps attention due to its rhythm, its infectious simplicity, and the engaging way it dances from major to minor—from cheerful to almost mournful. When you hear it, you want to dance! This is my favorite of the three pieces reviewed here.

"Lamplighter's Hornpipe," a staple in the fiddler's repertoire (where it is also known as "Handorgan's Hornpipe") is another traditional Irish folk tune. This haunting melody is wonderful to play, and people who play it or hear it will probably go home humming it to themselves.

Those new to ensemble playing would have no problem learning to play these recorder quartet arrangements, but more experienced players will also enjoy them. The arrangements are well-crafted, simple and engaging. Once you've played them, you want to do so again and again.

These pieces are so dancelike (indeed, most of them have specific dance steps associated with them) that players may be tempted to jig around whilst playing them! Therefore, it would be ideal to perform them while accompanying dancers. The pieces complement each other well and make a perfect set for performances of various types.

These publications have nice artwork, and the music is laid out clearly with adequate spacing between each staff, so players can easily read from the score if they prefer it to the individual parts.

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