

Omai

Campbell, 1787 "Omai, A Trip 'Round the World" (Australia, NSW, Sydney)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the main melody with the following chords: Dm, A, Dm, F, C, Dm, F, Dm. The second staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the following chords: Dm, C, Dm, V, V, A, V, Dm, F, A, Dm. The 'V' symbols indicate ornaments.

Rhythm: Reel

Book: H.E Clarke, Social Dance and Early Australian Settlement, PhD Thesis, QUT, 2018

Source: The 'Convict Dance and Music Research Project' by Dr. Heather Blasdale-Clarke at QUT

Notes: Omai was a Tahitian man. When Cook came past on his second voyage, Omai asked to be taken along on his explorations and proved himself useful in communicating with other islanders over the course of the Voyage.

Tune arranged by Roland Clarke, 2019

History: He decided he would stay aboard ship once the voyage was over and visited England, where he became something of a celebrity figure. A play was written casting him as a Tahitian prince who travelled the world and had all kinds of adventures. This tune is from that play.