

Silly Old Man

Trad (Australia, NSW, Sydney)

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Silly Old Man'. It is written in 6/8 time and consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is characterized by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The accompaniment consists of a steady bass line with dotted rhythms. The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system begins with a repeat sign and ends with a final double bar line.

Rhythm: Jig

Book: J Walsh, "Caledonian Country Dances, Being a collection of all the celebrated Scotch country dances now in vogue", London N.D.

Source: J Walsh (pub 1750)

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

Notes: The crew of the "HMS Bounty" are reported to have sung this as they threw Captain Bligh off his ship.

Tune transcribed & arranged by Roland Clarke, 2019