

French-Canadian Starter Tunes / Mélodies pour Débuter

Table of Contents

Starters

Abandonné	2
l'Air (de la) mignonne	3
La Belle Catherine	4
Les deux Lisa	5
La Fée des Dents	6
Galope de la Malbaie	7
Gaspé Reel	8
La Gueussinette	9
Gigue du Salon	10
Hommage à Edmond Pariso	11
Hommage à Philippe Bruneau	12
Louis Cyr	13
La Maison de Glâce	14
La promeneuse	15
Reel de Mattawa	16
Reel de Sherbrooke	17
St. Anne's Reel	18
Reel St-Antoine	19
Sheepskin and Beeswax	20

Immigrants and Emigrants

La Bastringue	22
Reel Bèatrice	23
Julia Delaney	24
The Mouth Of The Tobique	25
You Married My Daughter, and Yet You Didn't	26

Starters

Recommended Resources

Book:

.....Hart & Sandel (2001) Danse ce Soir

Online:

.....Réseau Québec Folklore has a series of instructional videos on YouTube multiple instruments

.....Pascal Gemme has a Patreon with dots and videos for only \$2/ month <https://www.patreon.com/c/tradquebe>

.....André Brunet has a series of paid lessons at FiddleVideo on YouTube



Abandonné

Abandonéon

reel

Carmen Guérard (Québec)

A

Em D Em(C7) (Bm) D

Em D C D

B

Em D(Bm) C(Em) A

Em D(Bm) C D 1 Em 2 Em FINE

C

Em A Em A

Em A D 1 Em 2 Em

Source: Pascal Gemme at Jam 2, Souche à Oreilles 2021

l'Air (de la) mignonne

air

Simon Riopel (Québec)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, and a quarter note C5. A repeat sign follows. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note B4, eighth notes A4 and G4, and a quarter note F#4. A repeat sign follows. The third staff continues with a quarter note E4, eighth notes D4 and C4, and a quarter note B3. A repeat sign follows. The fourth staff continues with a quarter note A3, eighth notes G3 and F#3, and a quarter note E3. A repeat sign follows. Chords are indicated above the staves: A (first staff), (F#m) (first staff), D and A (second staff), 1 E7 and 2 E7 (second staff), A (second staff), D and F#m (third staff), D and A (fourth staff), 1 E7 and 2 E7 (fourth staff), A (fourth staff). The score is flanked by double angle brackets << and >>.

La Belle Catherine

reel

Trad (Québec)

AAA BBBB AAA CC

A

D A G D G D A D

B

D G D G A D

C

D G D A

D G D G A D

Source: Louis "Pitou" Boudreault via André Brunet

Notes: crooked, note order of parts, and time signatures in B part

Les deux Lisa

reel

Louis Beaudoin (Québec)

A D G A D A

D G A 1 D 2 D

B D Em7 A D A

D Em7 A 1 D 2 D

<< >>

Discography: [André Brunet lesson] (<https://youtu.be/mj74uaRF3AY?t=11>)


La Fée des Dents

jig

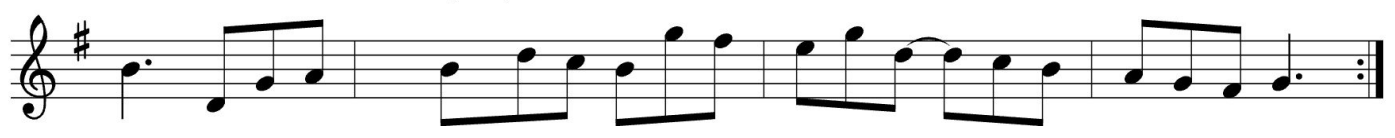
André Brunet ©2008 (Québec)

A

G G/B C(Am) D




G G/B(Em) C D G




B

C(6) Bm (Em)



Am(C) Bm(D) C Am D G



<< >>


Galope de la Malbaie

reel


Trad (rep. de Jos Bouchard) (Québec)

A

D (D#dim7) Em (Fdim7) D/F# G D/F# Em




D G (Fdim7) D/F# G A D




Section A consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, key of D major. The first staff contains the first six measures, and the second staff contains the remaining six measures. The melody is a simple eighth-note pattern. Chords are indicated above and below the notes.

B

Em (Fdim7) D/F# (Fdim7) Em A D/F# (Fdim7)



Em A A#dim7 Bm Em A D



Section B consists of two staves of music in 4/4 time, key of D major. The first staff contains the first six measures, and the second staff contains the remaining six measures. The melody is a simple eighth-note pattern. Chords are indicated above and below the notes. The section ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

<< Notes: slightly time shifted version played by Don Messer as Mackilmoyle's reel >>

Gaspé Reel

Reel de Gaspé

reel

Trad (Québec)

A D G A

D G 1 A D 2 A D

B1 A D A G D

A D A A D

B2 A D A G D

A D A A D

La Gueussinette

waltz

Steve Jones ©2002 (Québec)

A

Chords: A, Bm, Em, Bm, C#m7(b5), F#, Bm, Em, Bm, F#, Bm

<< >>

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for section A of the waltz 'La Gueussinette'. It consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The first staff begins with a repeat sign and is accompanied by chords A and Bm. The second staff has chords Em, Bm, C#m7(b5), and F#. The third staff has chords Bm, Em, Bm, F#, and Bm. The fourth staff concludes the section with a double bar line and repeat dots, with chords Em, Bm, F#, and Bm. Navigation arrows '<<' and '>>' are positioned on the left and right sides of the fourth staff.

B

Chords: Em, Bm, G, A7, D, Em, Bm, C#m7(b5), F#, Em, Bm, G, A, D, Em, Bm, F#, Bm

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for section B of the waltz 'La Gueussinette'. It consists of four staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps (D major). The first staff begins with a repeat sign and is accompanied by chords Em, Bm, G, A7, and D. The second staff has chords Em, Bm, C#m7(b5), and F#. The third staff has chords Em, Bm, G, A, and D. The fourth staff concludes the section with a double bar line and repeat dots, with chords Em, Bm, F#, and Bm.

Book: Raz de Marée (2007) Contra Music of Quebec, p.6. Tidal Wave Music
Source: Raz de Marée (famille Aucoin)

Gigue du Salon

6/8

Pascal Gemme ©2013 (Québec)

The musical score for "Gigue du Salon" is written in treble clef, 6/8 time, and the key of A major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#). The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff contains a first and second ending. The fourth and fifth staves are flanked by double angle brackets (<< and >>). The chords are as follows:

- Staff 1: A, A, (Bm), E, E7
- Staff 2: A, (Bm), E, 1 E7 A, 2 E7
- Staff 3: B, A, (Bm), E, E7
- Staff 4: A, (Bm), E, E7, A
- Staff 5: A, (Bm), E, E7
- Staff 6: A, Asus4, A, Bm, E, E7, A

Source: Pascal Gemme

Hommage à Edmond Pariso

Reel du Commonwealth

reel

Edmond Pariso, Marcel Messervier (Québec)

♩ = 120

A

A

D

A

A#dim7

E7/B

E

A

E

A

D

A

A#dim7

E7/B

E

A

E

A

A7

B

D (F#m7/C#) (Bm7)

(E7/B)

A

E/G#

F#m

E

A

E

A

(A+/C#)

D (F#m7/C#) (Bm7)

(E7/B)

A

E/G#

F#m

E

A

E

A

Hommage à Philippe Bruneau

waltz

Guy Loyer ©1980 (Québec)

A D D/C# Bm7 Em

A A/G D/F# A

D D/C# Bm7 Em

Em A A D

B D D#dim7 Em A

DM7/F# Bm7 A/C# 1 D 2 D

Source: Hart and Sandell, *Danse ce Soir*

Notes: There are two tunes named *Hommage à Philippe Bruneau*, this waltz, and a reel by Lorenzo Picard.

Louis Cyr

reel

Jean-Claude Mirandette (Quebec)

D7 G D C G D C D7

G D C G G/B D 1 Em G 2 Em G

G D G D Am G C Am

G D G D Em Bm 1 D Em 2 D Em

Discography: [Sur le bout deu banc](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkEYxwBMB3c>)



La Maison de Glâce

jig

Réjean Brunet ©1997 (Québec)

A

D (D/F#) G A

D (D/F#) | 1 G A | 2 G A (F#m) |

B

Bm (G) D A Bm (F#m)

Bm (G) D A | 1 A D | 2 A D |

<<

>>

La promeneuse

march

Réjean Lizotte (Québec)

A

D G D Em A

D G D Em A

Musical notation for section A, first staff: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5. Chords above: A (D4-F#4), D (D4-F#4-A4), G (B4-D5), D (D4-F#4-A4), Em (D4-F#4), A (D4-F#4).

Musical notation for section A, second staff: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5. Chords above: D (D4-F#4-A4), G (B4-D5), D (D4-F#4-A4), Em (D4-F#4), A (D4-F#4).

B

Dsus4 D G A/G D/F# Em A7 Bm Bm/A

G A/G D/F# Em A7 D

Musical notation for section B, first staff: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5. Chords above: Dsus4 (D4-F#4), D (D4-F#4-A4), G (B4-D5), A/G (A4-G4), D/F# (D4-F#4), Em (D4-F#4), A7 (A4-G4-F#4), Bm (B4-D5), Bm/A (B4-D5-A4).

Musical notation for section B, second staff: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5. Chords above: G (B4-D5), A/G (A4-G4), D/F# (D4-F#4), Em (D4-F#4), A7 (A4-G4-F#4), D (D4-F#4-A4).

Source: Pascal Gemme, Trad Québec Studio

Reel de Mattawa

reel

Richard Forest (Québec)

A

Em G Em G D



Em G Em C D 1 Em 2 D Em



B

Em D Em C D



Em D Em Bm 1 Em 2 Bm Em



Reel de Sherbrooke

Reel de Montreal

reel

Trad (Québec)

A
G D G

G D G

B
D A D

D A 1 D 2 D C

Notes: seems to be called Reel de Montreal in the US and Reel de Sherbrooke in Québec

St. Anne's Reel

Reel Ste-Anne

reel

Trad (Québec)

The musical score for "St. Anne's Reel" is written in D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a repeat sign. Above the first staff are chords: A, D, G, A7, D. The second staff continues the melody with a repeat sign at the end. Above it are chords: D, G, A7, D. The third staff also begins with a repeat sign. Above it are chords: B, D, G, A7, D, A7. The fourth and final staff ends with a repeat sign. Above it are chords: D, G (Em), A7, D. On the far left and right sides of the page, there are double angle brackets: << and >>.

Reel St-Antoine

reel

Trad (Québec)

A A A D E

A A D | 1 E A | 2 E A

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note, then a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes a double bar line with repeat signs. Below the second staff, there are two first endings: the first ending consists of two measures (E, A) and the second ending consists of two measures (E, A).

B A F#m Bm E

A F#m D F#m Bm | 1 E7 A | 2 E7 A

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody continues with various note values and rests. The second staff continues the melody and includes a double bar line with repeat signs. Below the second staff, there are two first endings: the first ending consists of two measures (E7, A) and the second ending consists of two measures (E7, A). Navigation symbols '<<' and '>>' are located on the left and right sides of the page respectively.

Discography: [classic version from Jos Bouchard](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyLCqIa6xv4>)

Sheepskin and Beeswax

reel

Trad (Québec)

A

Am C Am G G Em Bm C

Am C Am G Em 1 Bm Am 2 Bm G

B

Am G Em G Em Bm G

Am G Em G Em 1 Bm G 2 Bm Am

<< >>

Source: Keith Corrigan via Lisa Ornstein & Denis Pepin

Notes: according to Lisa Ornstein @thesession.org

... From melodeon player Keith Corrigan of Valcartier, Quebec and singer/fiddler Jimmy Kelly of neighboring Shannon, Quebec

Immigrants and Emigrants

These are tunes you may know from other traditions

some tunes were brought in to the "jam trad" from elsewhere (e.g., Julia Delaney, Mouth of the Tobique)

others were adopted into other traditions (e.g., Reel Beatrice, You Married My Daughter)

this is not new for French Canadian tunes, just check out Jean-Pierre Joyal's history of that quintessential Québec tune, La Bastringue, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARHxI97j7KU>
it's in French, but stick with it to see how a jig and a strathspey become a reel



La Bastringue

reel

Trad (Québec)

A D A D A D

D A D G | 1 A D | 2 A D

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. It features a repeat sign followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. Above the staff are the chords A, D, A, D, A, and D. The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a final triplet of eighth notes. Above this staff are the chords D, A, D, G, and two first/second ending brackets: the first ending contains A and D, and the second ending contains A and D.

B D C D G (Em) A

D C D G D | 1 G A D | 2 A D

<< >>

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The third staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 4/4 time signature. It includes a repeat sign and a sequence of eighth and quarter notes. Above the staff are the chords B, D, C, D, G (Em), and A. The fourth staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a final triplet of eighth notes. Above this staff are the chords D, C, D, G, D, and two first/second ending brackets: the first ending contains G, A, and D, and the second ending contains A and D. The page is flanked by double arrow symbols (<< and >>) on the left and right sides.

Reel Bèatrice

reel

Trad (Québec)

A

Musical notation for section A, consisting of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The melody starts with a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Am above the first measure, Dm above the second measure, E7 above the third measure, and Am above the fourth measure. The second staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

B

Musical notation for section B, consisting of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody starts with a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm above the first measure, Am above the second measure, E7 above the third measure, and Am above the fourth measure. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff includes a first ending bracket labeled '1 Am' and a second ending bracket labeled '2 Am G7'. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

C

Musical notation for section C, consisting of one staff. The staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody starts with a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C above the first measure, G7 above the second measure. The staff includes a first ending bracket labeled '1 C (G7)' and a second ending bracket labeled '2 C G7 C'. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Source: Jos Bouchard

Julia Delaney

Reel des sorcières

reel

Trad (Irish)

A

Dm C Dm Am Dm

Dm C Dm (B b) (C) Am Dm

B

Dm(B b 6) C Dm(Gm) Am(C) Dm

Dm(B b 6) C Dm(Gm) C 1 Am Dm 2 Am Dm

Source: Joseph Sobol



The Mouth Of The Tobique

French Mary

reel

Francis Sowish, between 1910-1930 (Maritimes)

A

Musical notation for section A, consisting of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a triplet of eighth notes. Chords G, D, and G are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a repeat sign. Chords G and D are indicated above the staff. A first ending box contains the chords G and D G, and a second ending box contains G and D G. The section concludes with a triplet of eighth notes.

B

Musical notation for section B, consisting of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign. Chords Em, D, C, D, and G are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a repeat sign. Chords Em, D, C, and D are indicated above the staff. A first ending box contains the chords G and D G, and a second ending box contains G and D G. The section concludes with a triplet of eighth notes.

C

Musical notation for section C, consisting of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign. Chords G, C, G, C, D, D, G, and D are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a repeat sign. Chords G, C, G, C, G, and D are indicated above the staff. A first ending box contains the chords G and (D), and a second ending box contains G and (D) G. The section concludes with a triplet of eighth notes.

Discography: [Don Messer - earliest recording?] (<https://youtu.be/TI2yihl82sA?t=90>)

Notes: Messer played a variation on "a" part, usually as a2, that we now use as the "c" part.

it is now commonly played AABCC, but...

Frank Ferrell plays it AABCCBB as does Mairi Black, Sharon Shannon plays BBCC

-
Don Messer switched the names of two Sowish tunes and published "French Mary" as "Mouth of the Tobique"

(per Peter Rolland on Fiddle-L as quoted in Traditional Tune Archive annotations)

You Married My Daughter, and Yet You Didn't

Tout d'un coup, tu maries ma fille

reel

Trad (Québec)

A

G D

1 G 2 G

B

G D

1 G 2 G

<< >>

Discography: [Walt Koken](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cOp4b4yn74>)

Index

Immigrants and Emigrants

Starters

Abandonné	2
Bastringue, La	22
Belle Catherine, La	4
Fée des Dents, La	6
Galope de la Malbaie	7
Gaspé Reel	8
Gigue du Salon	10
Gueussinette, La	9
Hommage à Edmond Pariso	11
Hommage à Philippe Bruneau	12
Julia Delaney	24
l'Air (de la) mignonne	3
Les deux Lisa	5
Louis Cyr	13
Maison de Glâce, La	14
Mouth Of The Tobique, The promeneuse, La	25 15
Reel Bèatrice	23
Reel de Mattawa	16
Reel de Sherbrooke	17
Reel St-Antoine	19
Sheepskin and Beeswax	20
St. Anne's Reel	18
You Married My Daughter, and Yet You Didn't	26



Web versions with more information and recorded examples