

Highlander's Farewell

(traditional tune)

A musical score for the traditional tune "Highlander's Farewell". The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of quarter note = 108. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on the upper line of the staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: Am at the beginning, G at the end of the first phrase. The second staff continues the melody, with chords Am, G, Am, G, and Am. The third staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature change to two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Chords are Am, G, and Em. The fourth staff continues the melody with chords Am, G, Em, and Am. The score ends with a double bar line.

Melody transcription by Ethan Hazzard-Watkins, learned from Ruthie Dornfeld on American Café Orchestra's "The Early Years," <http://americancafeorchestra.com/store.html>. Chords provided by Owen Morrison, who says "Part of what I like about this tune is that it can be played with so many chordal variations. I don't really think there is a best way."

The tune is from the playing of Emmett Lundy of Grayson County, Virginia (1864-1953); more information on Emmett can be found at <http://www.OLDTIMEMUSIC.com/FHOFLundy.html>, and a short recording of Emmett's playing of the tune can be heard on youtube at <http://youtu.be/nXkxjwazDgo>. The musical inspiration for the dance is a version played by Alisdair Fraser and Natalie Haas which can be heard on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiNroM6BiFI> (a medley of Highlander's Farewell to Ireland/Farewell to Ireland/O'er the Water to Charlie, and ending with this tune, Highlander's Farewell). ~ P.P.

Web extra: Hear Mara Shea play the tune on the Elftones' recording, called "Elftones"— <http://www.elftones.com/Highlanders.mp3>.