



## My Aunt Sally Ann

I have memories of my mother and my aunt dancing the schottisse around the kitchen while my father and I played this tune, but it comes out of my memory as more like a strathspey than a schottisse. (Not that we knew the term "strathspey" in those days.) This was in Kearney, Ontario (my mother's home town), so likely the tune was popular in that area in my parents' younger days. We called it "My Aunt Sally Ann," and sang a couplet to the *A* part:

*My Aunt Sally Ann is good enough for any man,*

*My Aunt Sally Ann is good enough for you!*

Years later my bandmate, Dick Lofthouse, found the tune in a couple of Scottish music books, under the title "Loudon's Bonny Woods." The books were: James S. Kerr, *Kerr's First Collection of Merry Melodies for the Violin*, Glasgow, undated

(likely pre-1960), p.19, and *Scots Guards Pipe Tune Book* (undated), p.173.

Recently I heard the tune on the CD *Moving Cloud* (Green Linnet GLCD 1150), under the title "Loudon's Braes are Bonny." It's played there as a "fling," so the tempo would take adjusting (and slowing down!) to make it suitable for the schottisse. The sleeve notes tell us it was "featured in an accordion duet recorded by Cork-born Jerry O'Brien and his one-time pupil, Boston-born Joe Derrane. It was originally recorded by O'Leary's Irish Minstrels in New York in 1936, The tune, which is Scottish in origin, dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century." I've also heard Winnipeg harper Danishka Esterhazy sing a set of Gaelic words to this tune, but the song isn't included on her CD.

—JL



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