

# Alistair Anderson

## Corby Crag

**Alistair Anderson** plays English concertina  
and Northumbrian small pipes  
**Tich Richardson** plays guitar  
**Billy Atkinson** plays mouth-organ

- 1 **The Hawk Polka / Thrunton Woods** *concertina / guitar*
- 2 **The Keelman's Petition / The Tipp Staff** *concertina*
- 3 **La Fille de Lyon / Cottillon des Marionettes** *Northumbrian small pipes*
- 4 **Blake's Hornpipe / President Garfield's Hornpipe / Bonny Broom Hill** *concertina / guitar*
- 5 **Felton Lonnin** *concertina*
- 6 **Kriden Fair / Tich Richardson's Favourite / Hey To The Camp / Brosehill** *concertina / guitar*
- 7 **Alistair Anderson's Favourite / Old French** *concertina / mouth-organ*
- 8 **The Belfast Hornpipe / The Prize Potato** *concertina / guitar*
- 9 **The Trip To Carlisle / Corby Crag** *pipes / concertina / guitar*
- 10 **Ali Anderson / Henry Atkinson** *concertina*
- 11 **Blaydon Flats / Whittingham Games / James Brown** *concertina / guitar*
- 12 **Derwentwater's Bonny Lord / The Bride's Favourite** *pipes / concertina*
- 13 **Remember Me / The Left-Handed Fiddler** *pipes*
- 14 **Geld Him Lasses, Geld Him / Uncle John** *concertina / guitar*
- 15 **The Darkening** *concertina*

First published by Topic Records Ltd 1978  
Recording and Production by Alistair Anderson  
Design by Tony Engle  
Photography by Liz and Alistair Anderson  
Notes by Alistair Anderson

**THE HAWK POLKA / THRUNTON WOODS**

James Hill, the composer of *The High Level Hornpipe* and many other fine fiddle tunes, lived at 'The Hawk', a pub in Gateshead. He named at least two tunes after the pub, one a reel which is quite well known and this polka which I found in a manuscript lent to me by John Gall of Beamish Museum who got it from John Hockey, a farmer in East Boldon, Co. Durham. The book appears to be the work of William Hall Lister also of East Boldon. Thrunton Woods are just to the south of our house.

**THE KEELMAN'S PETITION / THE TIPP STAFF**

Two tunes from the manuscript book of William Vickers, a fiddle player of the late 18th century who lived in the Bellingham area (north west Northumberland). Over the past few years I have found this little hand-written collection an invaluable source of tunes and it certainly gives us great insight into the repertory of a musician of the day.

**LA FILLE DE LYON / COTTILLON DES MARIONNETES**

I learnt this fine air from the singing of Catherine Perrier, one of my favourite singers. Importing tunes from the Continent and elsewhere into Northumberland is nothing new as the second tune, presumably also French in origin, is from William Vickers' book. Cotillons were apparently all the rage in Northumberland in the 1770s, having newly arrived from France.

**BLAKE'S HORNPIPE / PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S HORNPIPE / BONNY BROOM HILL**

**Blake's Hornpipe** is again from the Vickers Manuscript. I first came across **President Garfield's Hornpipe** in *Kerr's Merry Melodies* but was recently reminded of it when I heard a recording by Randy Miller a New England fiddler. *Kerr's Merry Melodies* is still probably the best value in Folk Music, when I bought it it was ten bob for over 1700 tunes. I wrote **Bonny Broom Hill** for Billy Atkinson after he had written **Alistair Anderson's Favourite** for me. We named it after Broomhill, the farm Billy lives on, as he already has two tunes named after him.

**FELTON LONNIN**

This is quite a different setting from the traditional pipe version. It has developed from an arrangement made to accompany Johnny Handle's singing.

**KRIDEN FAIR / TICH RICHARDSON'S FAVOURITE / HEY TO THE CAMP / BROSEHILL**

Four jigs - three from the Vickers book and one of mine.

**ALISTAIR ANDERSON'S FAVOURITE / OLD FRENCH**

Billy Atkinson is one of the best mouth organ players you're ever likely to hear. He has written some very good tunes and for him to write one for me is really quite something.

I learnt **Old French** from Sandy Davis of Boston. It is apparently from Cape Breton but it adapts well into the Northumbrian style of playing. It especially appeals to Billy as it is one of the few tunes that modulate but can still be played on a diatonic mouth-organ.

---

### THE BELFAST HORNPIPE / THE PRIZE POTATO

I found the first tune in *Kohler's Violin Repository*, a musical magazine of the 1880's, where it was untitled but have since learnt that it is usually called **The Belfast**, although it is not the same **Belfast** that proved so popular with budding whistle players some years ago.

As to the second tune, to our amazement we won first prize for our potatoes at our local village show. Success from a garden hitherto untouched for twenty years deserved a commemorative tune.

### THE TRIP TO CARLISLE / CORBY CRAG

**The Trip To Carlisle** is yet another tune from Mr. Vickers. A walk up Corby Crag gives you a panorama of north east Northumberland. There is evidence of occupation by ancient man - perhaps they liked the view.

### ALI ANDERSON / HENRY ATKINSON

Bob McQuillen, who plays accordion and piano in and around New England, is one of this world's enthusiasts. He has even bought an old bread van so he can take his piano to Folk Festivals. By pure coincidence Bob wrote this first tune for me on my birthday. It took me some time to find a tune to go with Bob's, but I eventually found one to my liking in the manuscript of Henry Atkinson, a fiddler from Hartburn, near Morpeth. The manuscript is dated 1694 and is therefore one of the earliest of the Northumbrian tune books. As there was no name for this tune I just call it Henry Atkinson - he left us a good book of tunes so deserves a tune of his own.

---

### BLAYDON FLATS / WHITTINGHAM GAMES / JAMES BROWN

**Blaydon Flats** and **James Brown** are both found in William Hall Lister's tune book, although this particular version of **Blaydon Flats** is from *Kohler's Repository*. **Whittingham Games** is our local village show.

### DERWENTWATER'S BONNY LORD / THE BRIDE'S FAVOURITE

There are two ballads concerning the romantic Lord Radcliff, the well known **Derwentwater's Farewell** and this one. It seems a shame that this is not sung very often. **The Bride's Favourite** is a fine spirited jig, almost certainly Irish in origin, that I can remember being played on the pipes by the late Billy Pigg whose playing was my greatest inspiration when I first came into contact with Northumbrian music.

### REMEMBER ME / THE LEFT-HANDED FIDDLER

I first heard **Remember Me** played by Billy Atkinson's son George and it has been a favourite of mine ever since. I cannot understand why more people do not play it. **The Left-Handed Fiddler** was written by Scott Skinner for the fiddle but it's great fun to play on the pipes.

---

**GELD HIM LASSES, GELD HIM / UNCLE JOHN**

**Geld Him Lasses, Geld Him** is found in the Vickers manuscript, but this version is from *Oswald's Caledonian Pocket Companion* book of mainly Scottish tunes published in London in the mid 18th century, a copy of which was kindly lent to me by A.L. Lloyd.

**Uncle John** is one of my latest 'discoveries' and, perhaps because of this, one of my favourites at the moment; those syncopated rhythms must have been great fun to dance to. I came across the tune in Henry Atkinson's book of 1694.

**THE DARKENING**

One of the many local words that add colour to the dialect, it means simply 'twilight'.

---

**Most of the concertina tracks use an Old Pitch concertina.**

**Alistair Anderson**

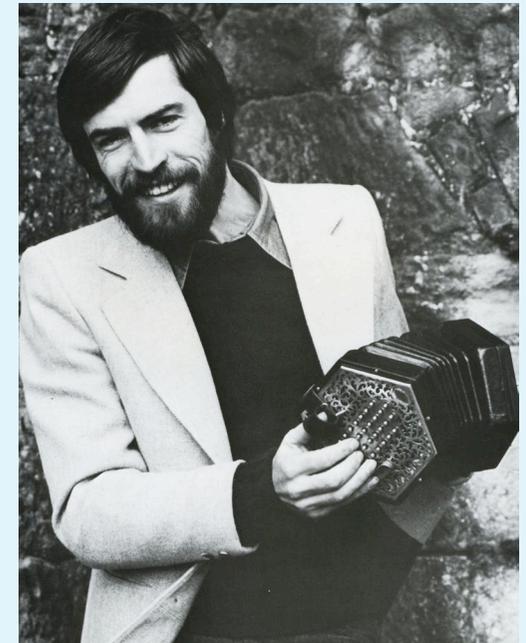
English concertina and Northumbrian small pipes  
Born and bred in Wallsend, now living in Whittingham. The only two instruments that are uniquely English are the English concertina and the small pipes.

**Tich Richardson**

Guitar  
Born and bred in Wallsend, now teaching in Doncaster. He has helped me on two previous records, as has his brother Dave, who I went to school with and started me playing music. Dave is now with the Boys of the Lough.

**Billy Atkinson**

Mouth-organ  
Of Broomhill, Alnwick. Has been in his time a shepherd and rabbit catcher. Now retired but very active. Featured on *Bonny North Tyne* (Topic TSDL239) and *Morpeth Rant* (Topic TSDL267).



Digital remaster ©2009 Topic Records Ltd.  
©2012 Topic Records Ltd.  
The copyright in this sound recording and digital artwork is owned by Topic Records Ltd.  
All rights reserved.

