

The Rakes of Mallow

Country dance

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a corresponding TAB staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The chords used are G, D7, and Am. The TAB notation uses numbers 0-5 to indicate fret positions on the strings.

Although accepted as an Irish tune (Mallow is a town in County Cork), early versions have been found as *The Rigs of Marlowe*, causing speculation about its origins. Whatever, it has

long been popular in Scotland, first published here in the 1780s.

A rake was a fashionable youth who led a somewhat dissolute life, so this tune celebrates such young men from the town of Mallow, much as other tunes celebrate *The Merry Lads of Ayr*, *The Lads o' Dunse* or *The Lasses o' Fochabers*. There was also a Scottish song, *Sandy He Belangs Tae the Mill* which was written to this tune to explain a point of Scots law.

Three guitar-style chord diagrams are provided for the chords used in the score:

- G:** Open strings, 3rd fret on the 2nd string, 2nd fret on the 4th string.
- D7:** 1st fret on the 2nd string, 2nd fret on the 3rd string, 3rd fret on the 4th string, 2nd fret on the 5th string.
- Am:** 1st fret on the 2nd string, 3rd fret on the 4th string, 2nd fret on the 5th string.