

# Miss Admiral Gordon's Strathspey

## The Arranger

Dan Adams is retired from the Wooster City Schools in Wooster, Ohio, where he served as Band and Orchestra director and Instrumental Music Coordinator for nearly three decades. Prior to Wooster he taught at Mount Anthony Union High School in Bennington, Vermont.

He received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from The Ohio State University (major instrument trombone) and a Master of Music in Band Conducting from Northwestern University where he studied with John Paynter.

Adams has decades of experience as an adjudicator, brass musician, and conductor. Present and past memberships include the Ohio Music Education Association, NAFME, ASCAP, College Band Directors National Association, and American Federation of Musicians Local 159.

## Performance Concerns

- Except for accented notes (which require some separation) and also pizzicato, perform all notes on the string.
- Be aggressive with the “Scots Snap” rhythm: 16th to dotted 8th and dotted 8th to 16th. Work to emphasize the 16th note.
- Boldness with the longer drone notes will provide the appropriate character, however, take care to avoid covering the melodic line. Attacking the grace note and then backing off slightly will provide the appropriate effect.

## Program Notes

Composed around 1775 by Scottish fiddler William Marshall, **Miss Admiral Gordon's Strathspey** is a traditional strathspey dance tune. It was written in honor of Margaret Gordon, daughter and only surviving child of Admiral William Gordon.

Robert Burns would later use the tune for his popular song, **Of a' the airts the wind can blaw**. The tune itself is also the basis for the Canadian folksong, **The Scarborough Settlers' Lament** as well as the **The Scottish Settlers' Lament**.

Named for the Strathspey region of Scotland, the strathspey dance is a popular form of country dance, usually in 4/4 time and slower than a reel or jig. It is characterized by the use of the “Scots Snap” rhythm — a sixteenth note followed by a dotted eighth note, or in reverse order.