

March

# The Muckin O Geordie's Byre

Trad

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of four staves of treble clef notation. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The second staff contains two first endings, labeled '1' and '2', which lead to a double bar line. The third and fourth staves continue the melody, with the fourth staff ending with a first ending labeled '1' and a double bar line.

Before the Second World War, it was common for farm workers to work for six month terms for a farmer, for a fixed "fee". Every six months there would be a hiring fair, where workers could seek new (and perhaps better) masters. On the farm, they were housed in bothies, dormitories where they ate and slept. Before the wireless or the gramophone, there was often lots of singing and story-telling at nights. This is one of the songs that was sung, and it tells the unfortunate tale of a farmer, Geordie, who set to work cleansing out his cowshed and what befell. See if you can find a recording of Jock Duncan singing it.