

DETROIT SCHOTTISCHE

transcribed from Vivian Williams' version on Dance Music on the Oregon Trail album

by Kitty Steetle

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Detroit Schottische". It is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The second staff is marked with a "5" at the beginning and a "FINE" at the end. The third staff is marked with a "9" at the beginning. The fourth staff is marked with a "13" at the beginning and contains two endings: "1" and "2 D.C. al Fine". The music is a lively, rhythmic tune characteristic of a Schottische.

Detroit Schottische is attributed to Adam Couse, a dancing master who also owned a music store in Detroit, Michigan in the mid-19th century.¹² Adam Couse's *Detroit Schottisch*³ was published in 1854 as a piano tune with accompaniment and the facsimile can be found on the Library of Congress website.⁴

Elias Howe includes the tune in his *Musician's Omnibus No 1*, under the section, *May Flower Schottische Quadrilles*, No 3 *Detroit Schottische* (1863, p 56).⁵ Here Howe does not give a composer; although this is not wholly irregular for the time period, Howe does use the phrase 'by permission' for other tunes signifying that they have known composers (see *Musician's Omnibus No 1*, **Dixie's Land** and **Mocking Bird** both on page 8) leading one to think Howe believed the tune was traditional.⁶

The *Detroit Schottische* is very similar to **Flop-Eared Mule** and **Lop-Eared Mule** with both latter tunes being more popular in the American southeast. There is a strong likelihood that all three share a common ancestor and have no clear single source.⁷

—Kitty Steetle

¹https://tuneearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Detroit_Schottische

²Notably, Couse became friends with composer Stephen Foster who dedicated the ballad, **The Voice of By Gone Days**, to Couse.

³No 'e'.

⁴<https://www.loc.gov/resource/music.mussm2-sm1854-230240/>

⁵You can download the entire *Omnibus* at the IMSLP link below. (Snip is taken from the online facsimile.)

⁶[https://imslp.org/wiki/Musician's_Omnibus_\(Howe%2C_Elias\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Musician's_Omnibus_(Howe%2C_Elias))

⁷Sorry, Adam Couse.