

MORGIANA IN ENGLAND

Allen Ash Manuscript - Ca. 1850

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The second staff contains two first and second endings, marked with '1.' and '2.'. The third, fourth, and fifth staves continue the melody. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

This tune appears in a number of British and North American collections from the very early 19th century as well as in a manuscript belonging to novelist Thomas Hardy. There are two other "Morgiana" jigs, from the same era - "Morgiana in Spain" and "Morgiana In Ireland"

They all seem to be "spinoffs" named for a popular character in Richard Brinsley Sheridan's play "The Forty Thieves: A Grand Melo-Dramatic Romance". Morgiana was apparently the servant girl in this retelling of the Ali Baba story from The Arabian Nights.