

The Sounding Line

The musical score for "The Sounding Line" is presented in four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. The third and fourth staves provide a harmonic accompaniment, primarily using chords (Am, C, F, G, Em) and a steady eighth-note bass line. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

“The Sounding Line” originated in Swale. It is one of many that shows up in the Red Book at the time that Harei moved through that region of bluffs and rivers. It is likely that this entire set of tunes was composed around that time, as they do not appear beforehand elsewhere. Some suggest they may have originated with a specific session group or even from one individual.

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from the book
Tales from the Red Book of Tunes

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