Hebridean Sunset Rag

for Violin and Piano

or

Flute and Piano

or

Flute and Guitar

or

Clarinet, Cello and Piano

I have a caravan in a wonderful spot on the west coast of Scotland, with a nearby beach and fantastic views of the Isles. It is a favourite retreat of mine, and I particularly like to go there with other musicians in the summer, to jam and sing songs on the beach, as the sun sets behind the dark silhouettes of Eigg and Rum.

This little piece is a flight of fancy, in which Scott Joplin, Stéphane Grappelli and Eddie Cochran come to stay at my caravan and join our jam session on the beach. Perhaps Niccolò Paganini is there too. Maybe it sounds a bit like this...

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This piece was written in early 2006 for the violinist Vicky Jones, then a final year student at Edinburgh University, for her degree recital. The first performance was given on 25th May 2006 in the Reid Hall, Edinburgh, by Vicky Jones with Nicholas Ashton on piano.

The bowing and articulation markings in this piece are suggestions only. The soloist is invited to approach the notated score in a somewhat free and uninhibited manner – to find their own way around the notes.