

Cuffy

Highwoods String Band from Armin Barnett
[No.3 Special]

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'Cuffy'. It consists of four staves of music, all in the key of G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a G chord. The second staff has a G chord, followed by a D chord, and then a G chord with a first ending bracket. The third staff has a G chord, followed by a D chord, and then a G chord. The fourth staff has a G chord, followed by a D chord, and then a G chord with a first ending bracket. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and repeat signs.

A man named Cuffee played a role in the Great Negro Plot of 1741, also known as the New York Slave Insurrection or the Great New York Conspiracy of 1741- names given to an incident in which black slaves and poor whites, mostly Irish, were accused of plotting to destroy the city in a conflagration. Tensions ran high in New York at the time due to economic depression, bad weather, and news of slave revolts and conspiracies coming from the south. When the last of a series of mysterious fires was attributed to a black man named Cuffee, he was arrested, and soon, as hysteria broke out and local conspiracy theories took hold, it led to mass arrests. At one point nearly half the city's male slaves over the age of sixteen were in jail. Even a few Catholics were included in the purge, on the suspicion that they were in the employ of the Spanish and sought to burn New England towns. Eventually 17 blacks were hanged along with four whites, and 13 blacks, like the unfortunate Cuffee and another slave named Quack, were burned at the stake. Scores of others were banished from the city and dispersed. (The Traditional Tune Archive)