

Foinn Seisiún 1



116 Favourite Traditional Irish Tunes
Arranged in 39 Session Sets

Compiled by Brian Prior



COMHALTAS

Published by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

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Introduction

Virtually every branch of Comhaltas holds a regular traditional session. The frequency of these events may vary from once a week in the more active branches to monthly sessions in others dependent on the number of musicians and the general level of branch activity. Sessions can also be found at every Fleadh Cheoil, and many other traditional festivals not to mention a number of celebrated pub venues up and down the country too numerous to mention here. It is no accident that this manifestation of Irish traditional culture is such a ubiquitous facet of the traditional music scene as the good session epitomises most of the characteristics (camara-derie, sharing of music, respect for fellow performers, etc.) which attract ever increasing numbers of participants to this highly enjoyable pursuit.

For sessions to be successful it is important that participants have the opportunity to join in as much as possible and the sets of standard traditional tunes in this publication should help musicians in that regard. The selections are based on a consensus achieved at our regular Wednesday night sessions held at the Cultúrlann in Monkstown over a two year period. When these started, because of the backgrounds of many of the musicians (some from France, Mexico, Spain plus one or two from Clare and Dublin!), it was very difficult to maintain any degree of continuity due to the varying repertoires of the participants, hence the need to adopt this approach.

Some of the sets may be well known such as the Bothy Band's Salamanca selection or the great Joe Cooley's Humours of Tulla, Skylark and Roaring Mary while others were introduced by participating musicians and visitors. Likewise, this collection is far from complete and you'll have to wait for Book 2 (now in preparation) for the Tarbolton set, the Kilfenora reels and jigs, etc. We would also welcome contributions from you the reader for inclusion in future issues, particularly where these may include regional preferences.

I hope that you will enjoy playing our session sets and remember there will always be a particular welcome for you to come and join us on Wednesday nights at Cultúrlann na hÉireann, 32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown anytime you decide to visit Dublin.

Finally a special thanks is extended to all members of the Wednesday night session group who made this publication possible and in particular Margaret (Peggy Peakin of the Liverpool Céilí Band) who has attended virtually every session. I would also like to thank Micheál De Buitléir and Craobh Eochaille (Youghal Branch of Comhaltas) for their support with the project and in getting the finalised version of the book published.

Brian Prior
July 2001

Note on the 2nd Edition

For the 2007 edition of *Foinn Seisiún*, we have taken the opportunity to fix a few minor issues with the first printing. However, we have kept the page numbering consistent, and you'll find the same tunes, in the same session-ready sets.

At the back of this book, as a reference, you'll find an alphabetical listing of tunes published in our three session books so far. You'll also notice

some changes in the layout of the music itself; generally we've tried to make the spacing more consistent, standardise triplet ornamentation and break staff lines at the beginnings of phrases. And of course, a CD set containing all of these tunes is still available. Enjoy!

Breandán Knowlton
July 2007

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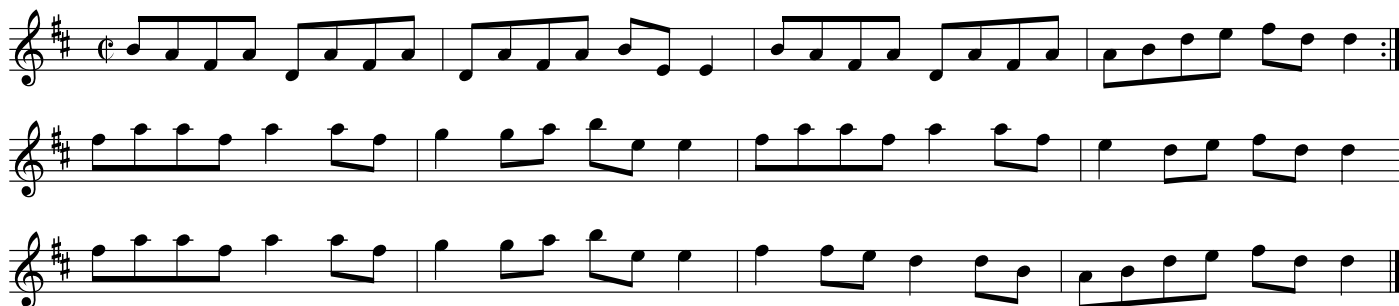
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Maid Behind the Bar**Kilmaley**

Glen Allen

**Green Mountain**

Concertina Reel**Come West Along the Road****Anderson's**

Boyne Hunt**Shannon Breeze****Red Haired Lass (Key of G)**

Over the Moor to Maggie**Lady Ann Montgomery****Maude Millar**

Bank of Ireland**Woman of the House****Kerry Reel**

Green Fields of Rosbeigh

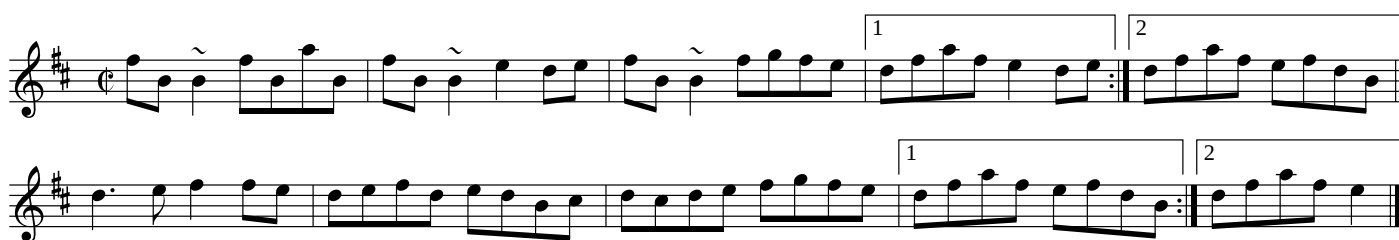


Silver Spear**Father Kelly's No. 1****Miss Monaghan**

Jackie Coleman's Reel**Mountain Road****Cregg's Pipes**

Cooley's Reel**Wise Maid****Bird in the Bush**

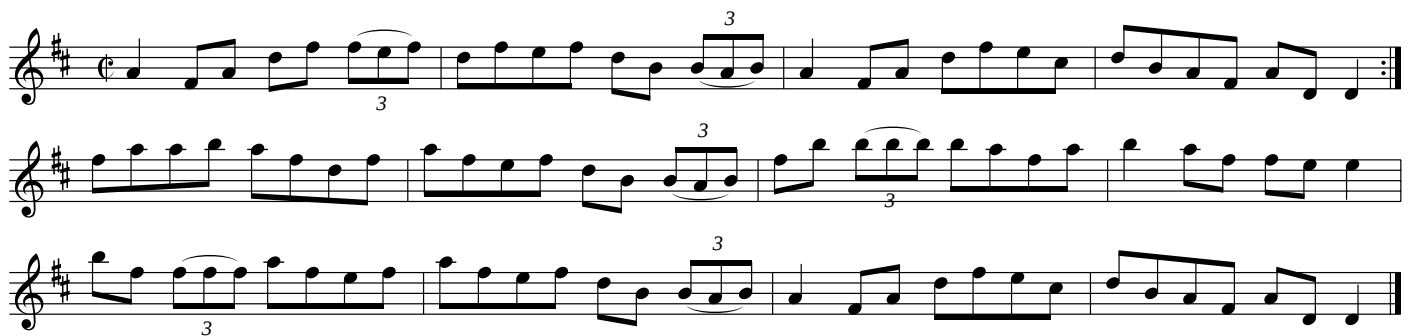
The Teetotaller**St. Anne's****London Lasses**

Drowsie Maggie**Glass of Beer****Toss the Feathers (Em Version)****Toss the Feathers (D Version)**

Miss McLeod's**Merry Blacksmith****Sally Gardens**

Salamanca**Banshee**

McMahons

**Sailor's Bonnet**

Earl's Chair**Tim Maloney's****Ships are Sailing**

Sheehan's**Cameronian****Foxhunter's**

Tulla Reel

Humors of Tulla

**Skylark****Roaring Mary**

Humours of Glendart**Saddle the Pony****Tobin's Favourite**

Geese in The Bog**The Connaughtman's Rambles****Out on the Ocean**

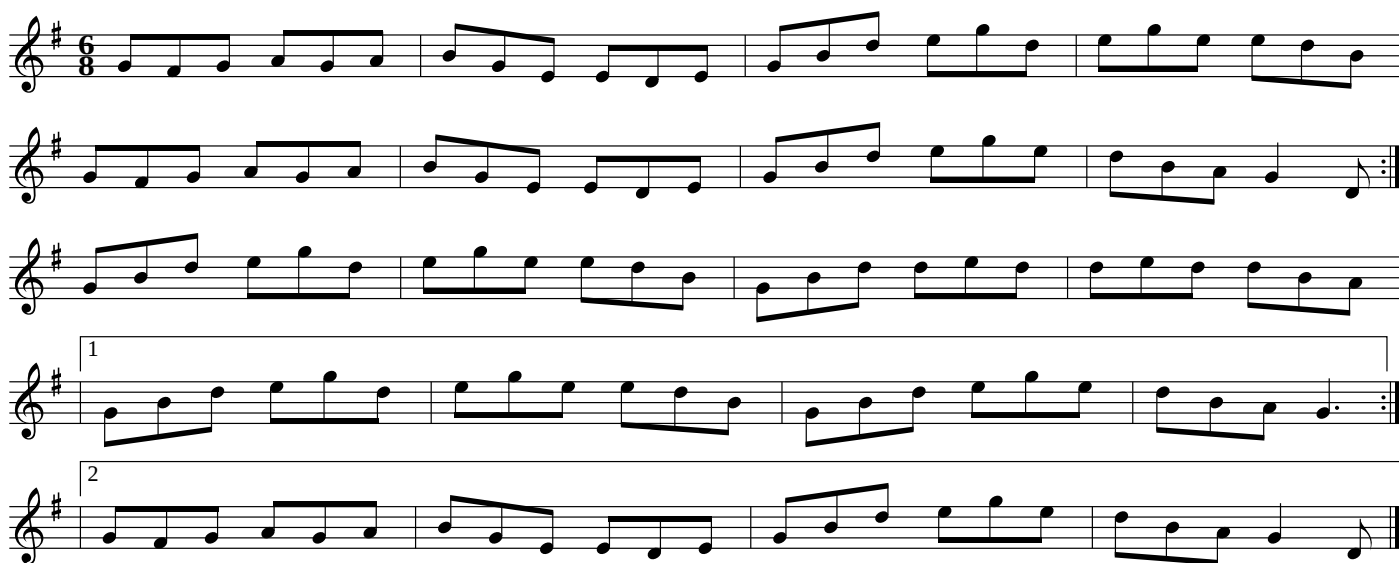
Jerry's Beaver Hat

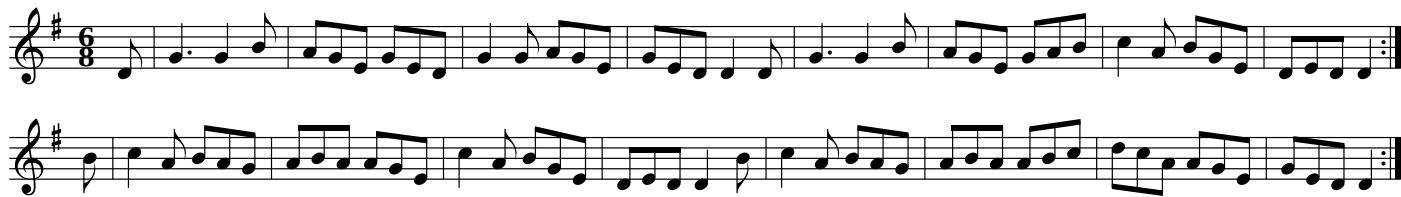
Returned Yank

**Kesh****Rambling Pitchfork**

Haunted House

Vincent Broderick

**My Darling Asleep****Club Céilí**

Jim Ward's Jig**Blarney Pilgrim****The Cook in the Kitchen**

Lilting Banshee**Haste to the Wedding****Maid on the Green**

Lark in the Morning**Humours of Ennistymon****Wandering Minstrel**

Queen of the Fair**Pay the Reckoning****Carraroe Jig**

Kid on the Mountain**Morrison's****Leitrim Jig**

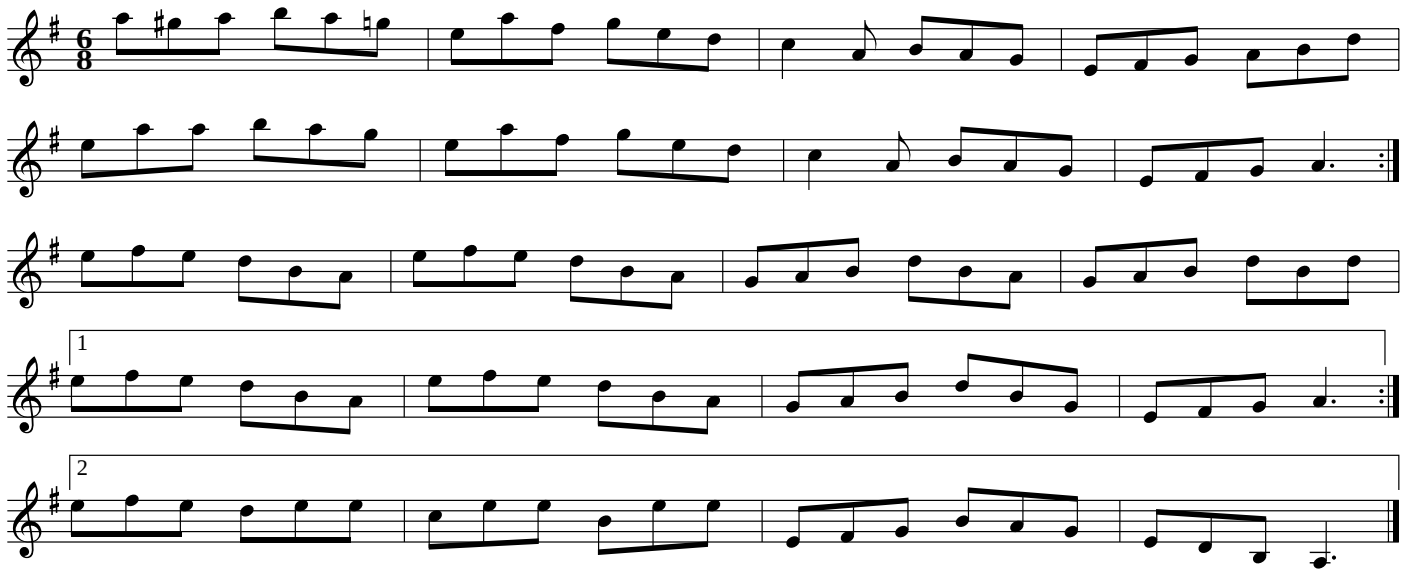
Brendan Tonra's Jig

Tone Rowe's

**Kilavil Jig****Ship in Full Sail**

Dusty Windowsills

Austin Barret's

**Cliffs of Moher****Rose in the Heather**

Trip to Athlone**Langstrom's Pony****Sackow's Jig**

Morning Lark**Joe Cooley's Jig****Tom Billy's**

Flowers of Spring



The Frost is All Over**Eavesdropper****Sixpenny Money**

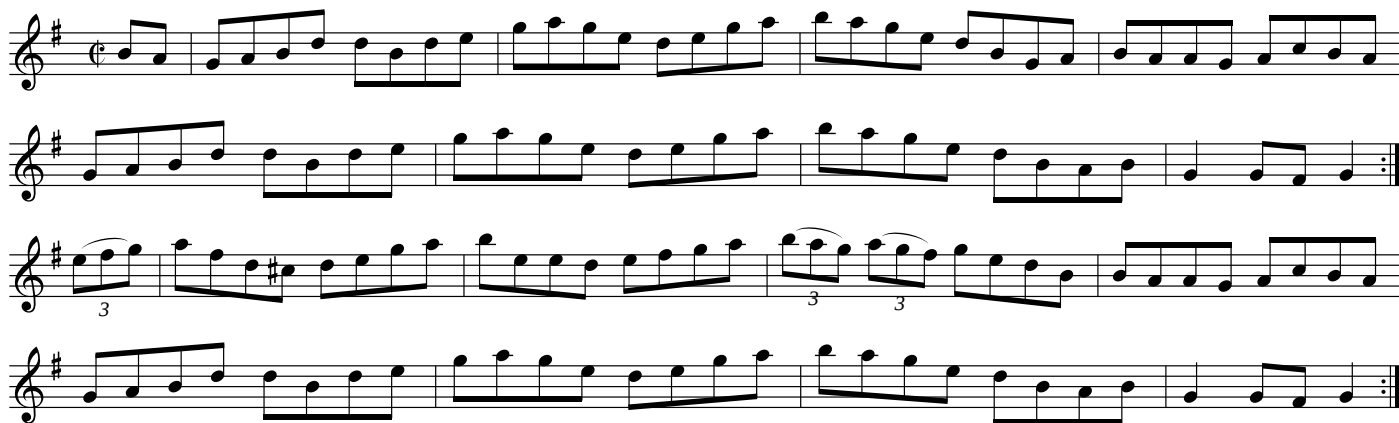
Sonny Murray's Hornpipe

Wicklow/Delahunty's

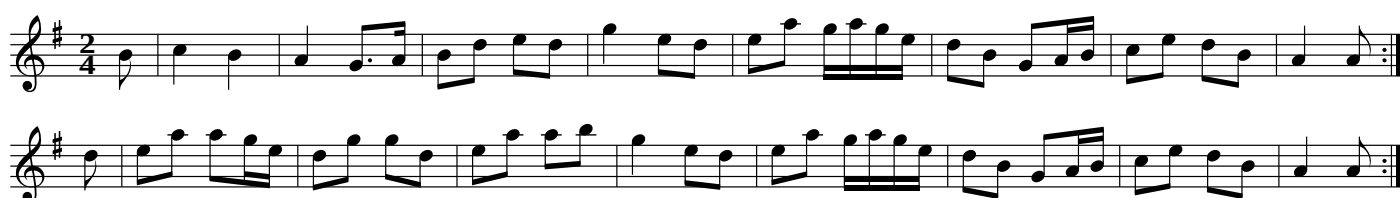
**Home Ruler****Kitty's Wedding**

Boys of Bluehill**Cork Hornpipe**

Harvest Home

**Cronin's Hornpipe**

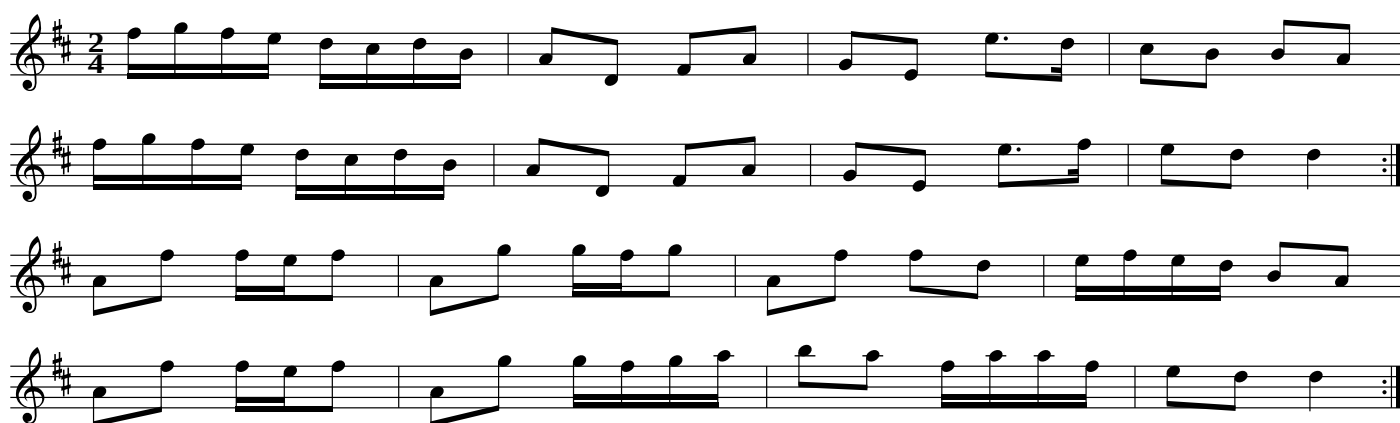
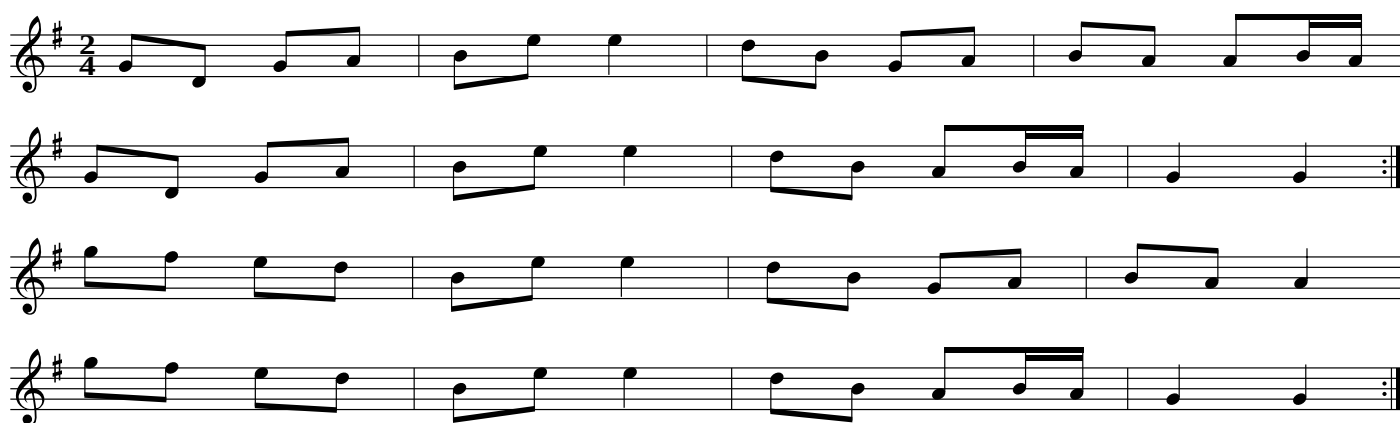
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Ballydesmond Polka No. 2**Ballydesmond Polka No. 1****Peg Ryan's**

Kerry Polka No. 1



Britches Full of Stitches**Armagh Polka****Ballydesmond Polka No. 3**

Sweeny's Polka**Denis Murphy's Polka****Maggie in the Wood**

Little Diamond Polka**Murroe Polka****Maids of Ardath**

Toormore No. 2



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Foinn Seisiún 2



104 Favourite Irish Traditional Tunes
Arranged in 35 Session Sets

Compiled by Brian Prior



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Introduction

Book 1 was published in July 2001 and the concept of standard traditional sets has proved popular with many musicians. It's particularly useful for anyone new to the tradition who wants to build up a good repertoire, essential in any session situation. Additionally as the Book is now in wide circulation you can be sure that others will have the same tunes and hopefully less time will have to be spent on "What will we play?" and more time on the serious business of actually playing!

Another objective of producing these books is to keep the tried and tested standards in circulation so that future generations of musicians can also enjoy playing the "Bucks", "Sligo Maid", "Tarbolton Set" or the Clare favourites such as the "Kilfenora" reels and jig sets. This helps us to sustain that special link with the great musicians of yesteryear, an aspect of the tradition which adds depth to the overall experience of playing traditional music.

Any traditional musician will know that sessions are not just about playing tunes but involve

camaraderie, sharing of music, respect for fellow performers, etc. Hopefully, access to the music in Foinn Seisiún Books 1 & 2 will allow you to participate more fully in the session situation and become part of the growing global community of Irish traditional musicians.

As already stated in Book 1, we use selections from Foinn Seisiún regularly at our Dublin, Monkstown sessions - particularly on Tuesday (Slow Session) and Wednesday nights. There will always be a particular welcome for you to come and join us on any of these nights and also at weekends anytime you decide to visit Dublin.

Once again I'd like to thank all members of the Tuesday and Wednesday night session groups for their assistance in trying out these tunes and also Micheál de Buitleir and Craobh Eochaille (Youghal Branch of Comhaltas) for their support with the project and assistance in getting the book published.

Brian Prior
July 2003

Note on the 2nd Edition

For the 2007 edition of *Foinn Seisiún*, we have taken the opportunity to fix a few minor issues with the first printing. However, we have kept the page numbering consistent, and you'll find the same tunes, in the same session-ready sets.

At the back of this book, as a reference, you'll find an alphabetical listing of tunes published in

our three session books so far. You'll also notice some changes in the layout of the music itself; generally we've tried to make the spacing more consistent, standardise triplet ornamentation and break staff lines at the beginnings of phrases. And of course, a CD set containing all of these tunes is still available. Enjoy!

Breandán Knowlton
July 2007

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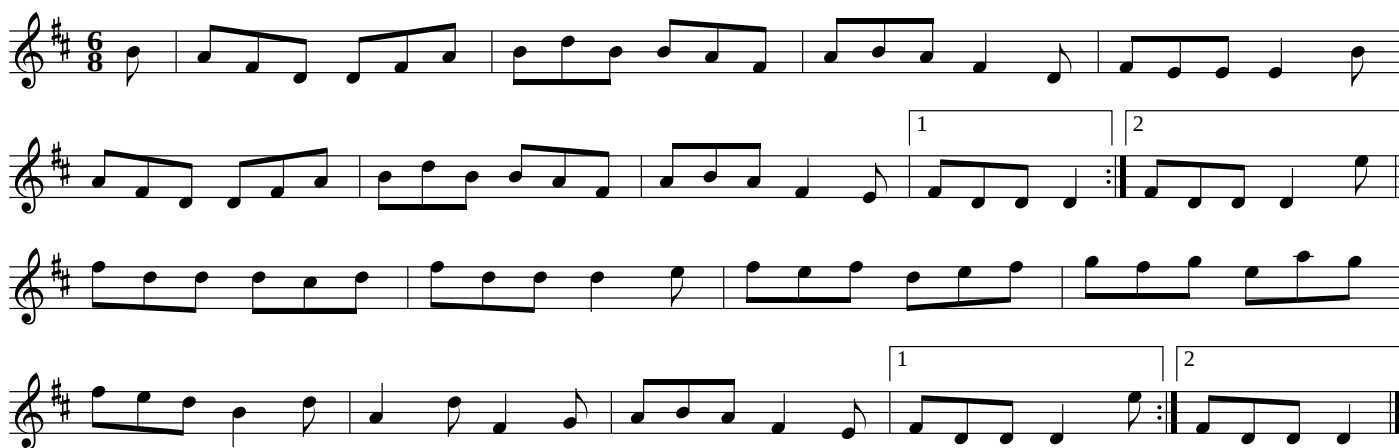
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The Liltin' Fisherman**Tell Her I Am (O'Neill's Version)****Going to the Well for Water**

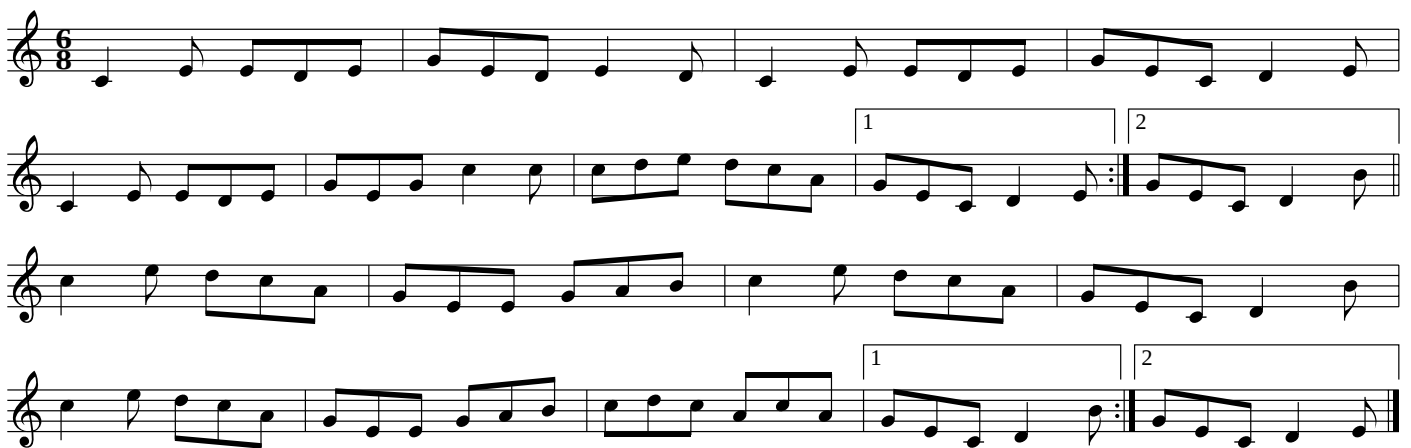
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Old Kilfenora Jig**The Hole in the Hedge****Flowers of the Burren**

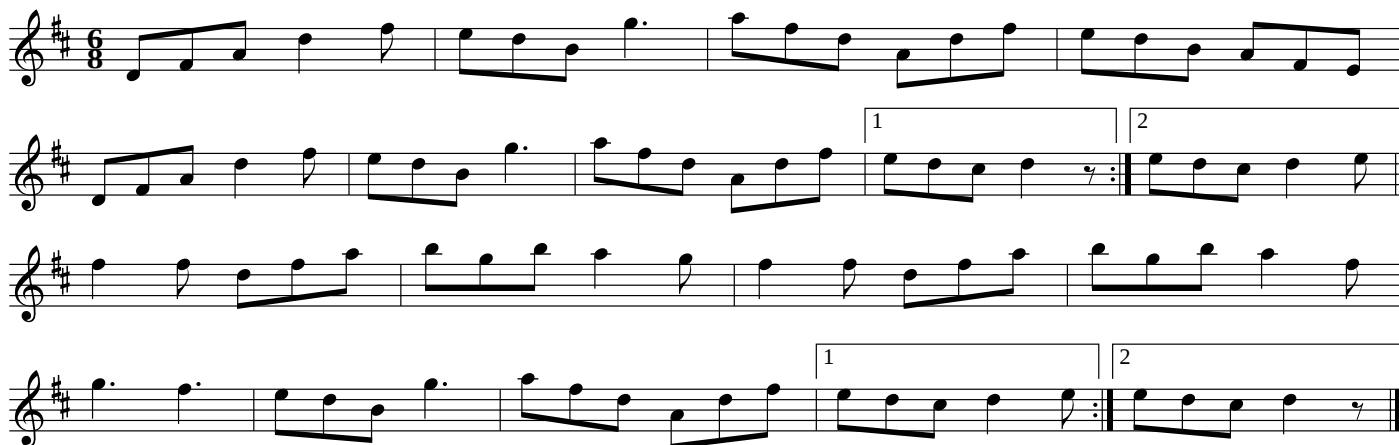
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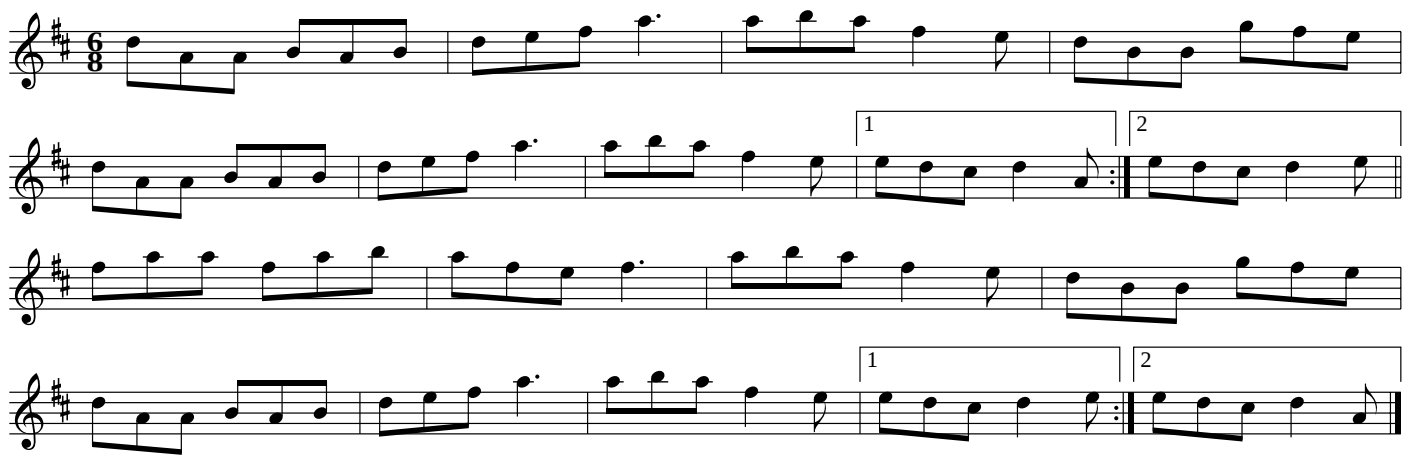
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**Michael Hynes's Jig****The Boys of the Town**

Bill Collins' Jig**The Kilmovee Jig**

Larrisey's

**The Cobbler**

Dan the Cobbler



Tar Road to Sligo

Musical score for 'Tar Road to Sligo' in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The piece consists of five staves. The first staff contains the first four measures. The second staff contains measures 5-8, with a first ending bracket over measures 7-8 and a second ending bracket over measures 9-10. The third staff contains measures 11-14. The fourth staff contains measures 15-18, with a first ending bracket over measures 17-18. The fifth staff contains measures 19-22, with a second ending bracket over measures 21-22. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Maid in the Meadow

Musical score for 'Maid in the Meadow' in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The piece consists of four staves. The first staff contains measures 1-4, with a fermata over the first two measures. The second staff contains measures 5-8, with a first ending bracket over measures 7-8 and a second ending bracket over measures 9-10. The third staff contains measures 11-14. The fourth staff contains measures 15-18, with a first ending bracket over measures 17-18 and a second ending bracket over measures 19-20. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Behind the Haystack

Musical score for 'Behind the Haystack' in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The piece consists of three staves. The first staff contains measures 1-8. The second staff contains measures 9-16, with a first ending bracket over measures 15-16 and a second ending bracket over measures 17-18. The third staff contains measures 19-26, with a first ending bracket over measures 25-26 and a second ending bracket over measures 27-28. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Connemara Stockings

Kilfenora Reels – No. 1

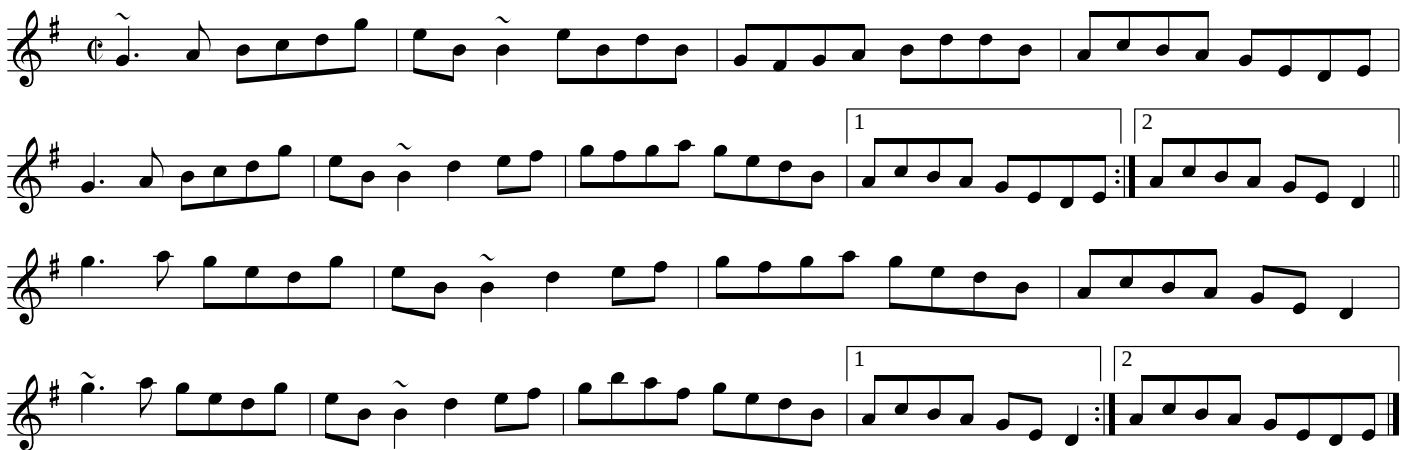
**Jim McCormicks**

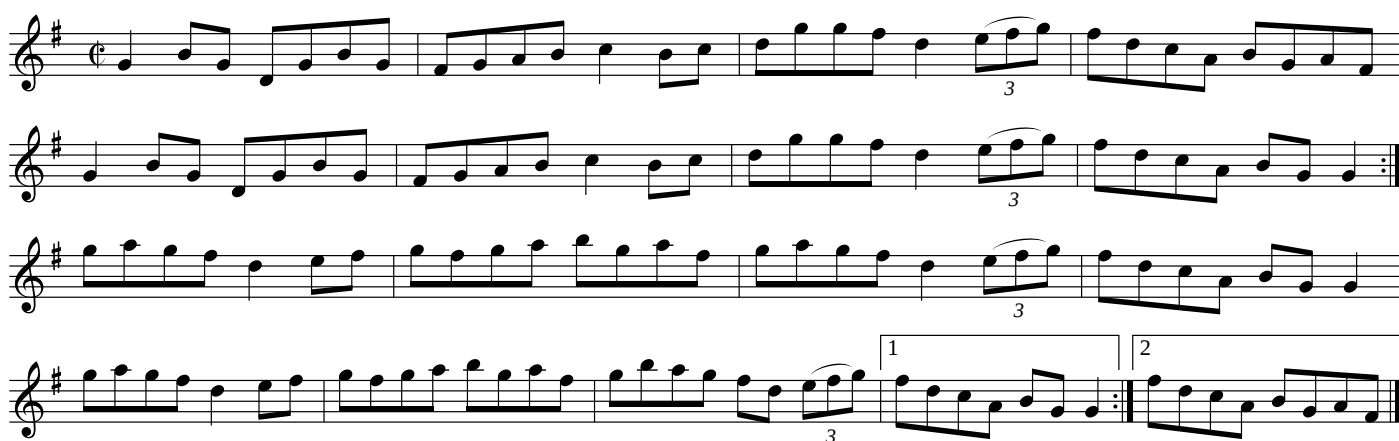
Kilfenora Reels – No. 2

**The Clougher**

Kilfenora Reels – No. 3



Tarbolton**Longford Collector****Sailor's Bonnet**

Donegal Reel**The Peeler's Jacket****Trip to Durrow**

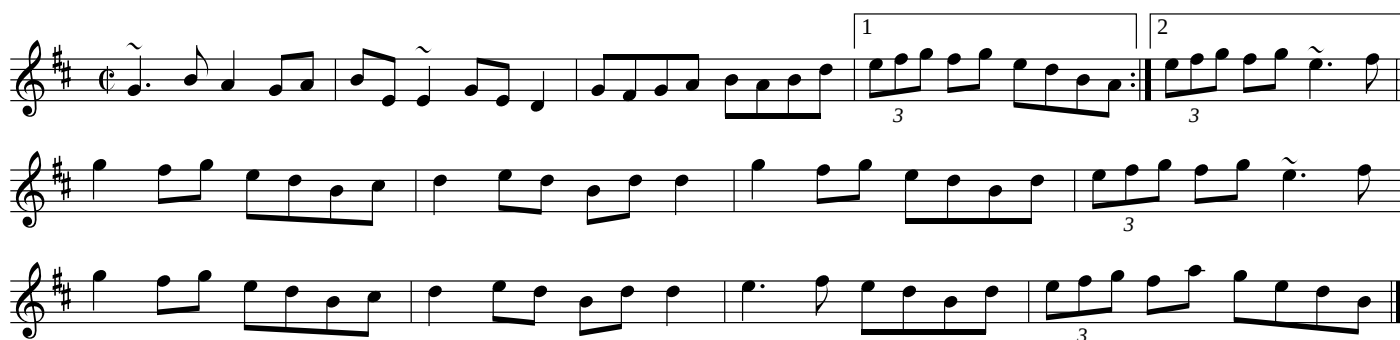
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Vincent Broderick's

**The Hunter's House**

Reavy's



Sailor on the Rock**The Hare's Paw****Sunny Banks Reel**

Jenny Picking Cockles**Jenny's Wedding****Jenny's Chickens**

Traver's Reel**Bucks of Oranmore****Duke of Leinster**

Cup of Tea**The New Copperplate****The Old Copperplate**

Shaskeen Reel**My Love is in America****Tom Ward's Downfall**

Chicago Reel**Castle Kelly****Humours of Ballyconnell**

Martin Wynne's No. 1**Martin Wynne's No. 2****Martin Wynne's No. 3**

Cronin's

Speed the Plough

**Tommy People's Reel****Galtee Rangers**

Callaghan's



Maids of Mount Cisco

Five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is characterized by many grace notes (accents) over the notes. The first staff contains four measures. The second staff contains four measures, ending with a repeat sign. The third staff contains four measures, with first and second endings marked above the final two measures. The fourth staff contains four measures. The fifth staff contains four measures, ending with a repeat sign.

Sligo Maid

Four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' below the notes). The first staff contains four measures. The second staff contains four measures. The third staff contains four measures. The fourth staff contains four measures, ending with a repeat sign.

Swallow's Tail

Four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody includes triplet markings and first/second endings. The first staff contains four measures. The second staff contains four measures, with first and second endings marked above the final two measures. The third staff contains four measures. The fourth staff contains four measures, with first and second endings marked above the final two measures.

Kitty Gone a'Milking**College Groves****Green Fields of America**

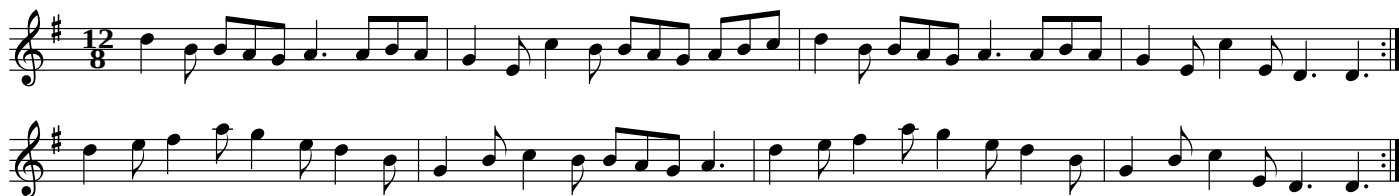
New Policeman

The Belles of Tipperary

**Lad O'Beirne's****Wind That Shakes The Barley**

Off to California**Liverpool Hornpipe****Murphy's Hornpipe**

O'Callaghan's**Plains of Boyle****Rights of Man**

Star above the Garter**Johnny Mickey's Slide****Dingle Regatta**

Terry Teehan's Polka**John Egan's Polka****John Walsh's Polka**

Memories of Ballymote

Church Street

**Gurteen Cross**

Saint Mary's

**Waves of Tory**

Lucy Farr's Barn Dance**The Stack of Barley****Some Say the Devil is Dead**

Ryan's Slip Jig

The Blackhaired Lass

**Drops of Brandy (Key of G)****The Foxhunt**

Brian Boru's March**Stone of Destiny***Composed by Maurice Lennon*

Both of these tunes were taken from Maurice Lennon's CD – "Brian Ború, the High King of Tara", released in 2002 to commemorate the thousandth anniversary of Brian Ború's coronation. All tunes on the CD, apart from the march, are composed by Maurice.

Foinn Seisiún Tune Index

For convenience, here we list all of the tunes (so far) in the Foinn Seisiún series. The list is arranged alphabetically within each rhythm type, and includes the Book (I, II, or III) and Page number of the tune.

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Foinn Seisiún 3



108 Favourite Traditional Irish Tunes
Arranged in 38 Session Sets

Compiled by Brian Prior



COMHALTAS

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Introduction

This is the third Book in the Comhaltas *Foinn Seisiún* series. *Foinn Seisiún* Book 1 was issued in July 2001 followed by the second book in the series, *Foinn Seisiún* Book 2 in July 2003. All of these books originated from the regular Wednesday night sessions held each week at Cultúrlann na hÉireann in Monkstown, County Dublin. Since July 2001, thousands of these books have been printed and distributed to musicians all over the world from Tokyo to Boston, Adelaide to Moscow and places in between! This goes to show the popularity of Irish traditional music around the world and perhaps more significantly the key role of informal music sessions.

Traditional sessions can now be found in virtually every country around the globe and a quick search on the Internet will locate most of these. Sessions can also be found at every Fleadh Cheoil, and at most traditional music festivals. This manifestation of Irish traditional culture has been highly successful for a number of reasons including the camaraderie, sharing of music, respect for fellow performers, etc, which is perhaps unique to this form of entertainment.

Successful sessions require maximum participation by the musicians present and it goes without saying that all traditional musicians aspire to achieve a good and varied repertoire of Irish traditional tunes. The *Foinn Seisiún* series of books will greatly assist in this regard, together containing over 300 traditional tunes arranged in ready-to-go session sets.

I hope that you will enjoy playing our session sets and remember there will always be a particular welcome for you at any Comhaltas session — and in particular our Wednesday nights at Cultúrlann na hÉireann, 32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown where the *Foinn Seisiún* concept originated.

Finally a special thanks is extended to all members of the Wednesday night session group who made this publication possible and in particular original members who included Margaret (Peggy Peakin of the Liverpool Céilí Band) and musicians from Craobh Chualann Comhaltas. Particular thanks goes to Breandán Knowlton, Comhaltas Projects Officer, who re-designed the books and organised the publishing arrangements.

Brian Prior
July 2007

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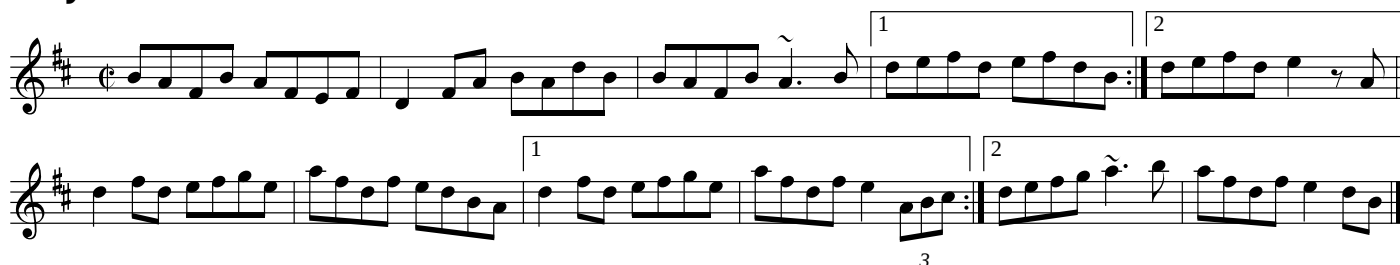
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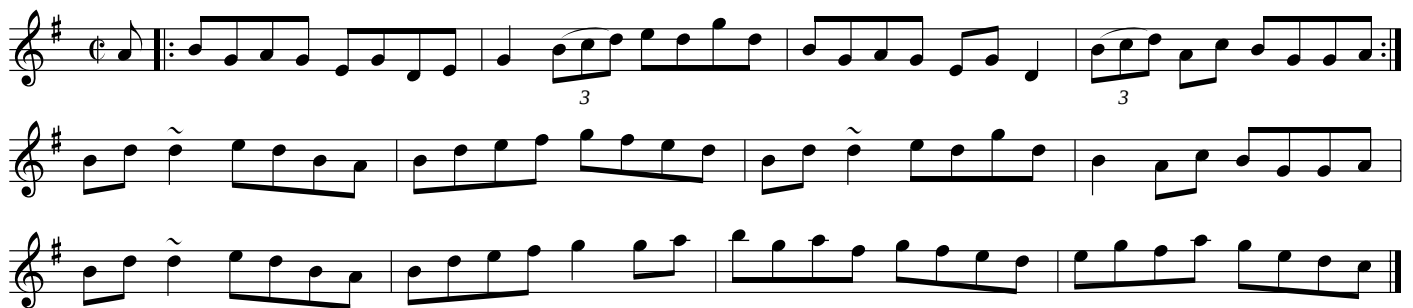
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Matt Molloy's Reel

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The Doon Reel**The Mountain Top****Fred Finn's Reel**

Christmas Eve

Musical score for "Christmas Eve" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of six staves. The first staff is the melody. The second staff contains a triplet of eighth notes and a first/second ending bracket. The third staff contains a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth staff contains a first/second ending bracket. The fifth and sixth staves contain triplets of eighth notes and first/second ending brackets.

Killavil Reel

Musical score for "Killavil Reel" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves. The first staff is the melody. The second staff contains a first/second ending bracket. The third staff contains a first/second ending bracket. The fourth staff contains a first/second ending bracket.

Boys of Ballisodare

Musical score for "Boys of Ballisodare" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves. The first staff contains a first/second ending bracket. The second staff contains a first/second ending bracket. The third staff contains a first/second ending bracket. The fourth staff contains a first/second ending bracket.

The Old Blackthorn**Mossy Banks****Jim Donoghue's**

Fergal O'Gara

Farrel Gara

**O'Rourke's Reel****Irish Girl**

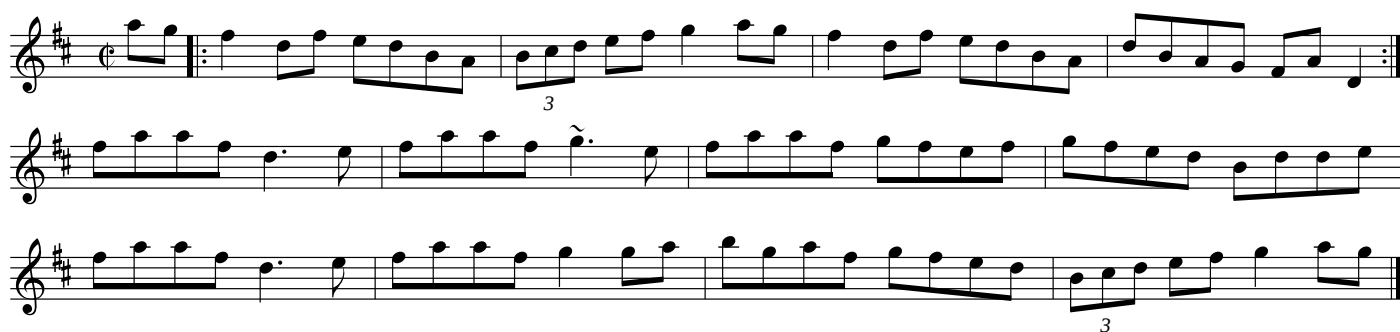
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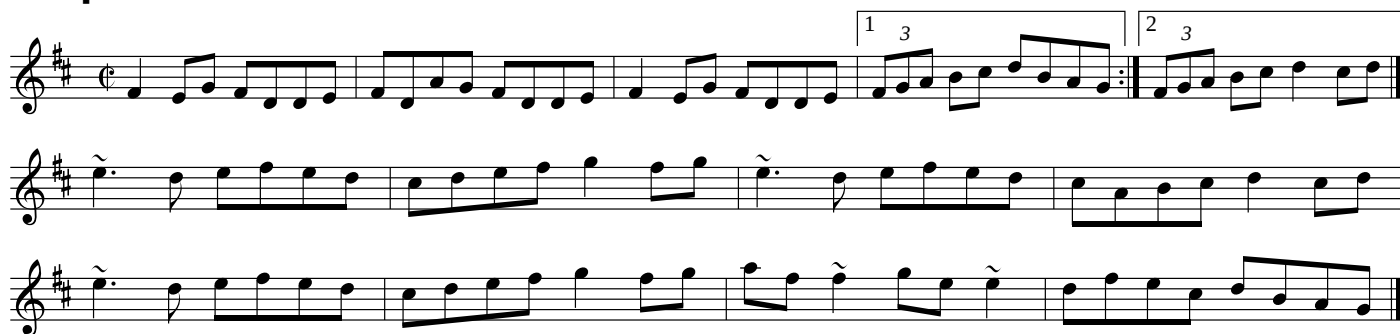
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Austin Tierney's

Farewell To Éireann

**Rattigan's****John Brennan's Reel**

Crowley's No. 1**Crowley's No. 2****The Blackberry Blossom**

The Otter's Holt**Music In The Glen****The Virginia Reel**

Stone of Destiny*Composed by Maurice Lennon***Road to Garrison***Composed by Maurice Lennon*

Both these reels have been composed by fiddle player, Maurice Lennon. Coming from a Leitrim traditional music dynasty (Maurice's father is renowned fiddle player, Ben Lennon while his uncle is composer/fiddle player Charlie Lennon) it's no wonder that Maurice is himself a prolific composer. He was an original member of the traditional super group, Stockton's Wing back in the eighties who recorded many of his compositions. Rumour has it that he is now working on a collection of his own compositions and there is no doubt but that this will be warmly welcomed by the Irish traditional music community.

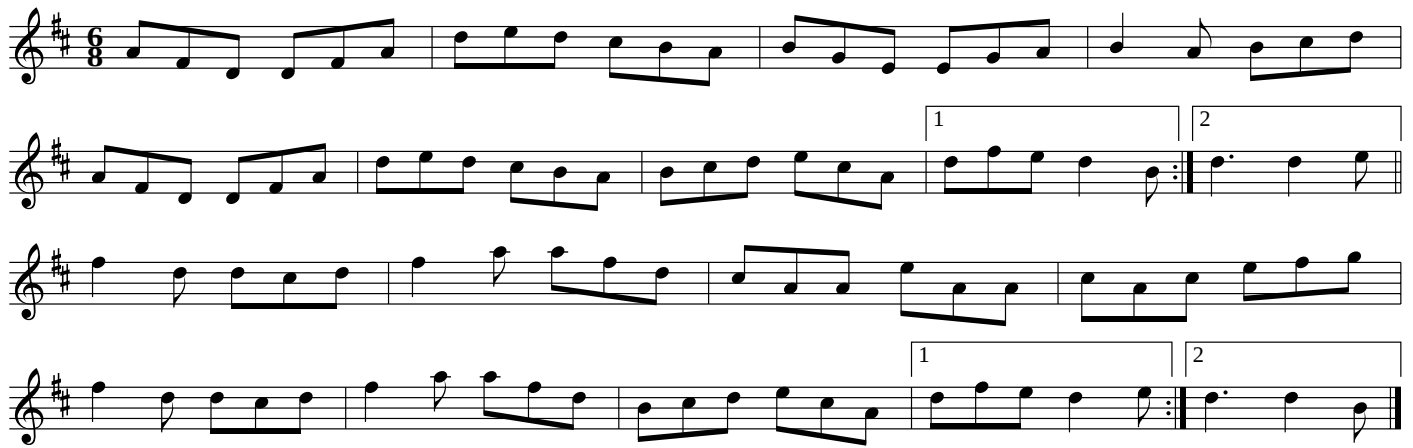
Pigeon on the Gate**The Flogging Reel****Tie The Bonnet**

Mug of Brown Ale**Leg of the Duck****Munster Buttermilk**

The Banks of Lough Gowna**The Gold Ring**

Fainne Oir Ort

**Tommy Mulhaire's Jig**

Shandon Bells**Father Kelly's****I Buried My Wife And Danced On Her Grave**

The Kinnegad Slashers**The Blackthorn Stick****Scotsman Over The Border**

Paddy Clancy's Jig**Macho Snaps****Paddy Taylor's Jig**

Caileach an Airgid**The Bride's Favourite****Julia Clifford's Favourite**

Lurgadán Jig*Composed by Junior Crehan***Mist Covered Mountain***Composed by Junior Crehan***Eddie Moloney's Jig**

The "Lurgadán" and "Mist Covered Mountain" jigs were composed by Clare's Junior Crehan (1908 – 1998). Junior composed many well known tunes including "Caisleán an Óir", "Her Lovely Hair Was Flowing Down Her Back" and "Farewell to Miltown". He was not only a great traditional musician and composer but also a singer and storyteller. He was a member of the famed Laichtín Naofa Céilí Band.

Old Kilfenora Jig**Club Céilí****Jim Ward's Jig**

These three tunes were separately published earlier in the Foinn Seisiún Series, in books 1 and 2. However, because this alternative combination of the tunes is such a popular set in Clare we thought they deserved a second hearing!

Contentment Is Wealth**Father O'Flynn****I Will If I Can**

The Derry Hornpipe**Kit O'Mahony's Hornpipe****The Galway Hornpipe**

The Fairy Queen



The Good-Natured Man



The Belfast Hornpipe

Sweeps Hornpipe



Around The Fairy Fort*Composed by Vincent Broderick***The New Broom***Composed by Vincent Broderick***If There Weren't Any Women In The World**

The two barn dances, "Around the Fairy Fort" and "The New Broom", were composed by East Galway flute player, Vincent Broderick. Vincent has been based in Dublin for many years and is a prominent member of the Cumann na bPiobairí Uilleann Branch of Comhaltas where he has taught flute and participated actively in their regular Saturday night sessions in Cultúrlann na héireann.

Keel Row Fling**The High Road to Linton****Green Grow the Rushes**

A Nation Once Again*Kilfenora/Turloughmore Version with Intro*

Chords indicated in the score:

- Staff 1: D, Bm, D, G, A7, D
- Staff 2: D, Bm, D, G, Em, D7
- Staff 3: D, Bm, E7
- Staff 4: G, Dm, D, D, A, D
- Staff 5: D, G, Dm, A
- Staff 6: D, Bm, G, G, D, A, D

Clare Dragons

The score for 'Clare Dragons' consists of six staves of music, each beginning with a repeat sign (double bar line with two dots). The melody is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time.

McKeown's Polka

Johnny I Do Miss You**Tripping to the Well****Bill Sullivan's Polka**

Tulla Polkas**Siege of Ennis****Knockabower Polka**

Top Of The Maol**Scartaglen Polka****Leitrim Polka**

Kilfenora Slide**John Joe's**

These tunes were popularised by the Kilfenora Céilí Band of the 1950s and have a unique rhythm somewhere between that of a slide and a single jig. The tradition of Kilfenora and North Clare is renowned for its variety and European marches, waltzes and pieces such as this would not have been uncommon in the repertoire of musicians from those times.

Kathleen Hehir's**Merrily Kiss The Quaker****The Weavers**

O'Keefe's No. 2



Micho Russell's Slide**The Priest****Cats Rambles To The Child's Saucepan**

Fanny Power*Composed by Turlough O'Carolan***Sí Beag Sí Mór***Composed by Turlough O'Carolan*

Foinn Seisiún Tune Index

For convenience, here we list all of the tunes (so far) in the Foinn Seisiún series. The list is arranged alphabetically within each rhythm type, and includes the Book (I, II, or III) and Page number of the tune.

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