# Irish Traditional Song Tunes Volume 1



A selection of Song Melodies that are also played as Dance Tunes.



**Note:** Only a few verses of each song is published. The Melodies are written as Dance Tunes with each part played twice whereas as the Song will be sung to the first part of the tune and sometimes the chorus to the second part of tune.

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www.jigrig.net/wordpress

The Spanish Lady

B C' D' D' E' F А D' G' E' F' D' А F' В А А 0 P 0 E' F' F А А В D'D' D' G' E' F' D' В А А C'a F' A' F' E' D' D' E' A' A' F E' D' E' A' F . F' F' D' A' A' E D' D' E' F G' F' В А А

> As I came down through Dublin City At the hour of twelve at night Who should I spy but a Spanish lady Washing her feet by the candlelight First she washed them, then she dried them Over a fire of amber coals In all me life I ne'er did see A maid so sweet about the soul

Whack for the Too Rye, ooh, Ray lady Whack for the Too Rye, ooh, Rye aye

Etc.



Polka





Beauing, belleing, dancing, drinking, Breaking windows, cursing, sinking Ever raking, never thinking Live the Rakes of Mallow Spending faster than it comes Beating waiters bailiffs, duns Bacchus' true begotten sons Live the Rakes of Mallow. Etc.







Says my aul wan to your aul wan Will ye come to the waxies dargle Says your aul wan to my aul wan, Sure I havent got a farthing Ive just been down to monto town To see uncle mcardle But he didnt have half a crown For to go to the waxies dargle

What are ye having, will ye have a pint Yes, III have a pint with you, sir And if one of us doesnt order soon Well be thrown out of the boozer

Etc.



I wish I had a Kerry Cow A Kerry Cow, A Kerry Cow And if I had a Kerry Cow I'd milk her night and morning Etc.





The Peeler and The Goat



A Bansha Peeler went one night On duty and patrolling O And met a goat upon the road And took her for a stroller O With bayonet fixed he sallied forth And caught her by the wizzen O And then he swore a mighty oath 'l'll send you off to prison O'

Oh, mercy, sir', the goat replied 'Pray let me tell my story O I am no Rogue, no Ribbon man No Croppy, Whig, or Tory O I'm guilty not of any crime Of petty or high treason O I'm sadly wanted at this time This is the milking season O'

It is in vain for to complain Or give your tongue such bridle O You're absent from your dwelling place Disorderly and idle O Your hoary locks will not prevail Nor your sublime oration O You'll be transported by Peel's Act Upon my information O'

Etc.

Slide

# The Gallant Tipperary Boys



'Tis now we'd want to be wary, boys The recruiters are out in Tipperary, boys If they offer a glass, we'll wink as they pass We're old birds for chaff in Tipperary, boys

Then hurrah for the gallant Tipperary boys Although we're "cross and contrary" boys There's never a one will handle a gun Except for the Green and Tipperary, boys

Now mind what John Bull did here, my boys In the days of our Famine and fear, my boys He burned and sacked, he plundered and racked Old Ireland of Irish to clear, my boys

Now Bull wants to pillage and rob, my boys And put the proceeds in his fob, my boys But let each Irish blade just stick to his trade And let Bull do his own dirty job, my boys

So never to 'list be in haste, my boys Or a glass of drugged whiskey to taste, my boys If to India you go it's to grief and to woe And to rot and to die like a beast, my boys

Etc.

Slide



Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a' Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a' We'll up an' gie them a blaw, a blaw Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a' O it's owre the border awa', awa' It's owre the border awa', awa' We'll on an' we'll march to Carlisle ha' Wi' its yetts, its castle an' a', an a' Etc



# The Rocky Road to Dublin



While in the merry month of May, now from me home I started Left, the girls of Tuam were nearly broken-hearted Saluted father dear, kissed me darling mother Drank a pint of beer, me grief and tears to smother Then off to reap the corn and leave where I was born Cut a stout, black thorn to banish ghosts and goblins A brand-new pair of brogues to rattle over the bogs And frighten all the dogs on the rocky road to Dublin

> A-one, two, three, four, five Hunt the hare and turn her down the rocky road And all the ways to Dublin, whack, follol de-dah

In Mullingar that night I rested limbs so weary Started by daylight next morning blithe and early Took a drop of pure to keep me heart from shrinking Thats the Paddy's cure when'er he's on for drinking To hear the lassies smile, laughing all the while At me curious style, 'twould set your heart a-bubblin' They asked me was I hired and wages I required to lay Was almost tired of the rocky road to Dublin

One, two, three, four, five Hunt the hare and turn her down the rocky road And all the ways to Dublin, whack, follol de-dah



Slip Jig



Who is that there knocking the window pane Who is that there knocking the window pane Who is that there knocking the window pane Only me says Cúnla Cúnla dear, don't come any near to me Cúnla dear, don't come any near to me Cúnla dear, don't come any near to me Maybe's I shouldn't says Cúnla





Here's a health to me mother-in-law now I ne'er at a fair saw her yet You blackguard don't drink a drop with me Your conduct I'll never forget My money you freely have squandered Treated me rarely ere now Drank both my goose and me gander And tonight you'll be drinking me cow

Táim in arrears, in arrears Táim in arrears i dti on ol Táim in arrears, in arrears And I'm feared I'll not pay evermore

# Behind the Bush in the Garden

Etc



Téir abhaile riú Téir abhaile riú Téir abhaile riú, a Mhéaraí Téir abhaile riú 's fan sa bhaile Mar tá do mhargadh déanta. Is cuma cé dhein é nó nár dhein

Is cuma cé dhein é, a Mhéaraí Is cuma cé dhein é nó nár dhein mar



Trathnóinín fómhar ar leataoibh an ród Sea dhearcas an óg-bhean mhomharach deas Is blasta 's is comhar do labhair a bheol Ó téanaim ag ól agus díoladsa as

Agus bímis ag ól ag ól is ag ól bímis ag ól is ag pógadh na mban bímis ag ól is ag rince le ceol is nach aoibhin an gnó bheith á bpógadh gan tart





I gave it to Kitty because she was pretty, The leg of the duck, the leg of the duck. I gave it to Molly because she was jolly, The leg of the duck, the leg of the duck.

I gave it to Nelly to stick in her belly The leg of the duck, the leg of the duck. She has it, she's got it, wherever she put it, The leg of the duck, the leg of the duck.

Lilt







They say that the Lakes of Killarney are fair No stream like the Liffey could ever compare If it's water you want you'll find nothing so rare As the stuff they make down in the ocean

The sea, oh, the sea is gra geal mo chroi Long may it stay between England and me It's no guarantee that some hour we'll be free oh, thank God we're surrounded by water.



# The Boys of Tanda<mark>rge</mark>e

Double Jig



Good luck to you all, now barring the cat that sits in the corner a-smelling the rat I wish you philandering girls would behave and saving your presence, I'll chat you a stave

I come from the land where the praties grow big and the girls nice and handy can dance a fine jig

The boys they would charm your hearts for to see they're rare and fine fellows round Tandragee

> So here's to the boys who are happy and gay Singing and dancing and tearing away Rollick some, frolicsome, frisky and free We're the rollicking boys around Tandragee

No doubt you have hear of Kilarney I'm sure and sweet Inishowen for the drop of the pure Dublin's the place for the Strawberry Beds and Donnybrook fair for the cracking of heads Have you ever seen an Irishman dance a poltog now he faces his partner and turns up his

brogue

Shakes at the buckle and bends at the knee they're wonderful dancers round Tandragee





Now Brian O'Linn was a gentleman born He lived in a time when no clothes they were worn When fashion walked out, sure Brian walked in "I'll give ye fashion," says Brian O'Linn

Brian O'Linn had no britches to wear So he got him a sheepskin to make him a pair The leather side out and the wooly side in "Sure its great summers clothing." said Brian O'Linn

Brian O'Linn had no watch to put on So he got him a turnip to make him a one He put a wee cricket in under the skin "Sure they'll think it is ticking, " said Brian O'Linn

Brian O'Linn and his wife and wifes mother They all went home oer a wee bridge together The bridge it was narrow, they all tumbled in "Sure well go home by water, " said Brian O'Linn Daniel O'Connell

Double Jig



Ye young lovers of merit ye'll now pay attention And listen to what I'm about to relate, Concerning a couple I overheard talking As I was returning late home from a wake.

As I roamed along sure I met an auld woman, Who sat near a gap and she milking a cow. She was jigging a tune, 'Come Haste to the Wedding', Or some other ditty, I can't tell you now.

And looking around me I spied an auld tinker Who only by chance came strolling same way. The wea<mark>ther being fine he sat</mark> down beside her, 'What news on this, man?' the old woman did say.

'Tis no news at all, mam,' replied the bold Tinker 'But the people would wished that it never had been. Tis that damnable rogue of a Daniel O'Connell, He's now making children in Dublin by steam.'

'Yearra children aroo,' replied the auld woman A h-anam an diabhal, is he crazy at last?Is it a sign of a war, or a sudden rebellion?Or what is the reason he wants them so fast?'



Tá mo stoca is mo bhróga ag an rógaire dubh, Mo stoca is mo bhróga ag an rógaire dubh, Mo stoca is mo bhróga ag an rogaire dubh, Mo naipicín póca le bliain is an lá inniu.

Tá nead ins an sliabh ag an rógaire dubh, Tá ne<mark>ad i</mark>ns an sliabh ag an rógaire dubh, Tá nead ins an sliabh ag an rógaire dubh, Is ní ghabhfaidh sé an bóthar ach cóngar an chnoic.

Lilt

Lilt

Dá bhfeicteása Máire an taobh eile den tsruth, Dá bhfeicteása Máire an taobh eile den tsruth, Dá bhfe<mark>icteása Máire an ta</mark>obh eile den tsruth, Is a dhá chois in airde ag an rógaire dubh.



Nell Flaherty's Drake

Double Jig



Oh, my name it is Neil, quite candid I tell, And I lived in Coote Hill, which I'll never deny, I had a large drake, and I'd die for his sake, which my grandmother left me, and she going to die; He was wholesome and sound; he weighed twenty pound, And the universe 'round I would rove for his sake. Bad luck to the robber, be he drunk or sober, That murdered Nell Flaherty's beautiful drake.

His neck it was green, most fit to be seen, He was fit for a Queen of the highest degree, His body so white, it would give you delight, He was fat, plump and heavy, and brisk as a bee; My dear little fellow, his legs, they were yellow, He would fly like a swallow, and swim like a hake. Until some dirty savage, to grease his white cabbage, Most wantenly murdered my beautiful drake.

May his pig never grunt, may his cat never hunt, May a ghost always haunt him in the dead of the night, May his hen never lay, may horse never nay, May his goat fly away like an old paper kite; May the flies and the fleas may the wretch ever tease, May the piercing March breeze make him shiver and shake, May the hump of a stick raise the lumps fast and thick, Of the monster that murdered Nell Flaherty's Drake.





In the year twenty nine when the weather was fine I first made me way to the sweet fair of Trim For to sell a fine swine it was my design She was plump fat and fair and complete in each limb This pig was as mild as a lamb or a child You could whip her all over the world with a twig And the truth for to tell, I sold her quite well Two pounds ten was the price that I got for my pig

I slapped the cash to me thigh saying "I'll drink by and by" Down the street I did fly, like a sporting young buck When a handsome young dame who belonged to the game She right up to me came to be sure for good luck She gave me a wink to go in for a drink Inveigled me up to dance Hennessy's Jig Twas at the wheel round she slipped her hand down And then left me quite scarce of the price of my pig!

Like a man in despair when I missed me fair share I went tearing me hair seeking her up and down Every corner and lane I did search out in vain But a sprig of this dame sure could never be found Meet her well I will or I surely will kill This I swear by the hair on Lord Norbury's wig Till the day that I die my revenge I will try On the dame that did rob me the price of me pig



Lannigan's Ball

Double Jig



In the town of Athy, one Jeremy Lanigan battered away till he hadn't a shilling His father died, made him a man again, left him a farm and ten acres of ground Myself, to be sure, got invitations for the boys and girls I might ask Having been asked, friends and relations danced like bees around a sweet cask There was lashings of drink wine for the ladies, potatoes and cake bacon and tea Nolans and Dolans and all the O'Gradys, courting the girls and dancing away While songs went round as plenty as water The harps that are sounded through Tara's old hall Biddie Grey and the rat catcher's daughter singing away at Lanigan's ball

Six long months I spent in Dublin, six long months doing nothing at all Six long months I spent in Dublin, learning to dance for Lanigan's ball She stepped out, I stepped in again. I stepped out and she stepped in again She stepped out, I stepped in again, learning to dance for Lanigan's ball



Sean Duine Doite

Double Jig



Ó chuir mé mo sheanduine isteach ins an choirnéal, Ag ól bainne ramhar is ag ithe aráin eornan. Dá gcuirfeadh sé a cheann amach bhainfinn an tsrón de, Agus d'fhágfainn an chuid eile ag cailín' deas óga

Óró 'sheanduine, 'sheanduine dóite, Óró 'sheanduine is mairg a phós thú, Óró 'sheanduine, 'sheanduine dóite, Luigh ar do leaba agus codlaigh do dhóthain.

Chuir mise mo sheanduine go shráid Bhaile an Róba, Cleite ina hata agus búclaí ina bhróga. Bhí triúr á mhealladh is bhí ceathrar á phógadh, Chuala mé i nGaillimh gur imigh se leotha.

Dá b'fhaighinnse mo sheandu<mark>ine</mark> báite i bpoll mona, A lámh a bheith briste nó a chos a bheith leonta, Do thabharfa<mark>inn abhaile é is do</mark> dhéanfainn é a thórramh, Agus shiúlfainn amach leis na buachaillí óga.

Dá mbeadh 'fhios ag mo sheanduine ó mar a bímse, Ag ól is ag imirt le hógfhir na tíre, Le héirí na gealaí go mbrisfeadh sé a phíopa, Agus bhuailfeadh sé faic dena mhuig ins an ghríosaigh.



Some say the devil is dead, the devil is dead, the devil is dead Some say the devil is dead, and buried in Killarney More say he rose again, more say he rose again More say he rose again and joined the British Army

Feed the pigs and milk the cow, and milk the cow, and milk the cow Feed the pigs and milk the cow, early in the morning Cock your leg, oh Paddy dear, Paddy dear I'm over here Cock your leg, oh Paddy dear, it's time to stop your yawning

Etc



Johnny when you die will you leave me your fiddle'o Johnny when you die will you leave me your bow Johnny when you die will you leave me your fiddle'o Johnny when you die will you leave me Mary Ann

Maggie Pickins

Highland



Maggie Pickens on the wall Maggie Pickens very tall Maggie Pickens going to fall Maggie Pickens dancing

Maggie Pickens had a cow Black and white above the brow Open the gate and let her through Maggie Pickens in cow

Maggie Pickens bought a goat With hairy tail and hair throat Brought her home in Murphy's boat Maggie Pickens churning

Maggie Pickens got up one day Found the goat in Murphy's hay Maggie Pickens had to pay Maggie sold her goat so





I'm tired now of single life . My mind's made up to take a wife. To shield me from this world of strife . And keep me out of danger.

love won't you marry me, marry me, marry me, Love won't you marry me and keep me out of danger. love won't you marry me, marry me, marry me, Love won't you marry me and keep me out of danger.

> I have a cottage by the sea Adorned with flowers for her and me. And any girl would happy be. And I would treat her fairly.

And now that we the knot have tied. And she for years has been my bride. with lots of children by our side. To shield us from all dangers





Brochan lom, tana lom, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan lom, tana lom, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan lom, tana lom, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan lom 's e tana lom 's e brochan lom na sùghain

Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan lom 's e tana lom 's e brochan lom na sùghain

Thugaibh aran dha na gillean leis a' bhrochan sùghain Thugaibh aran dha na gillean leis a' bhrochan sùghain Thugaibh aran dha na gillean leis a' bhrochan sùghain Brochan lom 's e tana lom 's e brochan lom na sùghain

Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain Brochan lom 's e tana lom 's e brochan lom na sùghain



The Darling Girl from Clare

Barndance



We were sitting on a bridge upon a Sunday To watch the girls go by And thinking we'd be married to one one day When Kate Flynn caught my eye Oh man, she was the makings of a fairy She made each boy'o swear There's not one girl in this wide, wide world Like the darling girl from Clare

Every man has got the finest plan You'd ever see now, barring me now Every day, there's one of them would say That she'll agree now, you'll see now Each night they'd fight as to which of them was right 'Bout the colour of her eyes or hair But not one word from me was ever heard About the darling girl from Clare



Eileen Og an' that the darlin's name is Through the Barony her features they were famous If we loved her then who was there to blame us For wasn't she the Pride of Petravore? But her beauty made us all so shy Not a man could look her in the eye Boys, Oh boys, sure that's the reason why We're in mournin' for the Pride of Petravore

Eileen Og me heart is growin' grey Ever since the day you wandered far away Eileen Og there's good fish in the say But there's none of them like the Pride of Petravore

Friday at the fair of Ballintubber Eileen met McGrath the cattle jobber I'd like to set me mark upon the robber For he stole away the Pride of Petravore He never seemed to see the girl at all Even wh<mark>en she ogled him from</mark> underneath her shawl Lookin' big and masterful when she was lookin' small Most provokin' for the Pride of Petravore

Eileen Og me heart is growin' grey Ever since the day you wandered far away Eileen Og there's good fish in the say But there's none of them like the Pride of Petravore



Mr. Patrick McGinty, an Irishman of note Fell into a fortune and he bought himself a goat Says he, "sure a goat's milk, I'm goin' to have me fill" But when he brought the nanny home he found it was a bill

All the young ladies who live in Killaloe They're all wearing bustles like their mothers used to do They each wear a bolster beneath their petticoat And save the rest for providence and for Paddy McGinty's goat

Mrs. Burke to her daughter said, "listen Mary Ann Who is the lad you were cuddlin' in the lane He had long wiry whiskers hangin' from his chin" "Twas only Pat McGinty's goat," she answered with a grin

Then she went away from the village in disgrace She came back with powder and paint upon herface She'd rings on her fingers and she wore a sable coat You can bet your life she never got that from Paddy McGinty's goat



The Beggarman

Hornpipe



It's of a jolly beggarman came tripping o'er the plain He came unto a farmer's door a lodging for to gain The farmer's daughter she came down and viewed him cheek and chin She says, He is a handsome man. I pray you take him in

We'll go no more a roving, a roving in the night

We'll go no more a roving, let the moon shine so bright

We'll go no more a roving

He would not lie within the barn nor yet within the byre

But he would in the corner lie down by the kitchen fire

o then the beggar's bed was made of good clean sheets and hay

And down beside the kitchen fire the jolly beggar lay

The farmer's daughter she got up to bolt the kitchen door And there she saw the beggar standing naked on the floor He took the daughter in his arms and to the bed he ran Kind sir, she says, be easy now, you'll waken our good man

We'll go no more a roving, a roving in the night We'll go no more a roving, let the moon shine so bright

We'll g<mark>o n</mark>o more <mark>a r</mark>oving

# Bonaparte Crossing the Rhine

Hornpipe



Oh, me name is Mick Maguire and I'll quickly tell to you Of a young girl I admired, called Kate O'Donohue She was fair and fat and forty and believe me when I say That whenever I came in at the door you could hear her mammy say

Johnny get up from the fire, get up and give the man a seat Can't you see it's Mr. Maguire and he's courtin' your sister Kate Ah, you know very well he owns a farm a wee bit out of the town Arragh get up out of that, you impudent brat, and let Mr Maguire sit down

Lilting

Ah, you know very well he owns a farm a wee bit out of the town Arragh get up out of that, you impudent brat, and let Mr Maguire sit down



An Spailpin Fanach

Hornpipe



Is Spailpin aerach tréitheach mise is bígí soláthar mná dhom, Mar a scaipfinn an síol faoi dhó san Earrach in éadan na dtaltaí bána, Mar a scaipfinn an síol faoi dhó san Earrach in éadan na dtaltaí bána, Mo lámha ar an gcéachta a'm i ndiaidh na gcapall agus réapfainnse cnoic le fána.

Is mo chúig céad slán leat, a dhúthai m'athar, is leis an oileán grámhar, Is leis an scata fear óg atá 'mo dhiaidh ag baile a dhéanfadh cabhair orm in am an ghátair, Tá Bleá Cliath dóite is tógfar Gaillimh, beidh lasair a'ainn ar thinte cnámha, Beidh fíon agus beoir ar bord ag m'athair, sin cabhair ag an Spailpín Fánach.

> Is an chéad lá in Éirinn dár liostáil mise, ó bhí mé súgach sásta, Is an dara lá dár liostáil mise ó bhí mé buartha cráite, Ach an tríú lá dár liostáil mise, thabharfainn cúig céad punt ar fhágáil, Ach dtá dtugainn sin is ar oiread eile ní raibh mo phas le fáil agam.

The Cuckoo's Nest

Hornpipe



There's a corner in the meadow where the lads and lasses meet Oh they do here what they couldn't do in the open street They play all kinds of games there, but the one I like the best Is where every laddie rumples up the cuckoo's nest.

It's high the cuckoo, low the cuckoo, high the cuckoo's nest It's high the cuckoo, low the cuckoo, high the cuckoo's nest I'll give any maid a shilling and a bottle of the best Just to rumple up the feathers of her cuckoo's nest

I wooed her in the morning and I had her in the night She was my very first one so I tried to do it right I searched around and wandered and I never would have guessed If she hadn't showed me where to find her cuckoo's nest







Shoe the donkey, shoe the donkey for his feet on the peat For the donkey will be wonky without shoes on his feet Fill the nose bag for the old nag, with the finest of grog For tomorrow beg or borrow we'll be all in the bog

We're all off today in the great USA We're heading for work in the town of New York With our barrows and spades, we'll forget all our pains As we shuffle our feet to the beat on the street

Shoe the donkey, shoe the donkey and comply with the law For the Yonkers will be Bonkers when they hear his He Haw Make a sandwich Mrs Banbridge, make the tea in the pot Now we're frying, turf is drying, for the sun is so hot

Shoe the donkey, shoe the donkey, hurry up don't be late It's the first time since old Ireland we had laugh and felt great What handsome little creature, all our friends will remark As he trots down Manhattan and across Central Park

> Come to bed love, Come to bed love, Come to bed love say's he.



Saint Patrick's Day

GAGGBC'D'G'E'D'BG D AGABGD EFEE D D'E'D'D'BG G F G Α G G в C' Α Α в G D Е G E' F' G' A' G' В D' E' F' G' A' G' E' D' E' D' D'  $\mathbf{D}'$ F' D' F E' D E B G G B C' D' E' F' G' A' G' F E' D' E' G' E'  $\mathbf{D}'$ D' G' E' D' в G AGABGD EFEED GAGGBC D'E'D'BG AGABGD E FG

> Oh! blest be the days when the Green banner floated, Sublime o'er the mountains of free Innisfail,
> When her sons to her glory and freedom devoted, Defied the invader to tread her soil.
> When back o'er the main they chased the Dane, And gave to religion and learning their spoil, When valor and mind, together combin'd, But wherefore lament o'er the glories departed? Her star shall shine out with as vivid array,
> For ne'er had she children more brave and true hearted Than those she now sees on Saint Patrick's Day.

Her scepter, alas! passed away to the stranger, And treason surrender'd what valor he held, But true hearts remain'd amid darkness and danger, Which, spite of her tyrants, would not be quell'd. Oft, oft thro' the night flash'd gleams of light, Which almost the darkness of bondage dispell'd; But a star now is near, her heaven to cheer, Not the the wild gleams which so fitfully darted, but long to shine down with its hallowing ray, Oh daughters as fair, and sons as true hearted As Erin beholds on Saint Patrick's Day.

Etc

Set Dance