

World Fiddle Day Recital 2024

Aidan Connolly Tribute to
Denis Murphy



Saturday May 18 At 14.00 Scartaglin

World Fiddle Day Recital Saturday 18 May 2024.

"A Tribute to Denis Murphy": hosted by Aidan Connolly.

It is hard to believe that fifty years have passed since Denis Murphy's passing. He was recognised both here and abroad as one of the tradition's finest musicians. Recorded by Radio Eireann many times over the years, he was heard in every household in Ireland through the decades. The years he spent in New York broadened his repertoire and enhanced his standing among the musicians there.

It is important that World Fiddle Day Scartaglin fifty years after his death devoted this weekend to his memory and brought together people who could convey that to our visitors. When it came to asking a fiddle player to host this year's recital it was an easy decision, Aidan Connolly with his Gneeveguilla connections was that person. At the peak of his powers and with a reputation as one of the best fiddle players in the tradition, he has carefully chosen tunes that Denis Murphy played and that he, Aidan, felt were right to showcase at this year's recital.

I want to thank Aidan Connolly on everyone's behalf and congratulate him on his sympathetic playing of the ten sets; everyone agrees he captures Denis Murphy's tone and style on the Handed Down Archives. I also acknowledge and thank Paul de Grae once more for the wonderful work on this booklet, with a comprehensive history of tunes within expertly presented. It is in the years ahead that this booklet will be invaluable to some young fiddle player who might ask, "Who was Denis Murphy from Lisheen?"

Yours in music,
PJ Teahan.
Founder.



Aidan Connolly.

Recordings

As PJ mentioned, the tunes for this year's recital have been selected by Aidan Connolly from the treasure trove of recordings of Denis Murphy in the Handed Down archives. These private recordings contain, as you would expect, marvellous music, but the sound quality is not always ideal; for that reason, Aidan has recorded the ten sets of tunes himself, closely following Denis's settings. For learning purposes, he has actually recorded them twice, at normal tempo and slowed down. PJ has uploaded Aidan's recordings on the Handed Down Soundcloud site. Here are the links to both playlists

Normal tempo: [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Links to individual sets are given in the commentary to each set. Also included in each case are the links to the original recording.

Transcriptions

These are based on Aidan's slowed-down recordings of Denis Murphy's settings, not taken from any previously published settings. Musicians of Denis's calibre put their own stamp on the tunes, and even if you know the tune already, it's worth looking at, and listening to, the many subtle differences in these settings. To mention just one example, *Morrison's Jig* is one of the best-known (some would say hackneyed) tunes in the repertoire, but Denis's version, under the original Kerry title of *The Stick Across the Hob*, is a revelation (set 9).

In keeping with the spirit of World Fiddle Day, we felt it was important that as many fiddlers as possible (the younger ones especially) should have the chance to learn these tunes, whether or not they can make it to Scartaglin on the day itself. Accordingly, I've opted for fairly basic transcriptions, omitting most of the ornamentation and variations. As well as staff notation, the tunes have also been transcribed in the ABC system favoured by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann; this has necessitated some simplifying here and there.

While transcriptions are useful, you are strongly recommended to listen closely to the recordings, to gain a better understanding of the style than can be shown in the notation. Aidan has done an amazing job of reproducing Denis's style in the recordings he has made for us; the sound quality makes them really valuable as learning tools. And of course you should listen to the original recordings of Denis as well.

[*Transcriptions and commentary by Paul de Grae.*]

Visit the website!

If you want to find out more about Denis Murphy, and the other musicians mentioned here, the World Fiddle Day Scartaglin website has a great store of information, rare photos, recordings and videos, biographical details, etc.; have a look, I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

<https://worldfiddledayscartaglin.ie>

The sets

These are the sets that Aidan has chosen from the archive recordings of Denis Murphy, and are transcribed on the following pages.

1. Polkas: The Five Servants, Julia Clifford's.
2. Jigs: The Humours of Castlecomer, Quinn's.
3. Slides: Barrack Hill, If I Had a Wife.
4. Reels: The Bucks of Oranmore, Colonel Fraser.
5. Jigs: Duggan's Favourite, Sixpenny Money.
6. Slides: Art O'Keeffe's (1 and 2).
7. Jigs: Have a Drink On Me, The Girl of the Big House.
8. Reels: Quinn's, Dónal a' Phumpa.
9. Jigs: Rattle the Quilt, The Stick Across the Hob.
10. Reels: Sliabh Maol, The Game Cock.



Denis Murphy (photo: Ciarán Mac Mathúna).

1. Polkas: The Five Servants, Julia Clifford's.

The Five Servants

Julia Clifford's

1. Polkas: The Five Servants, Julia Clifford's.

"The Five Servants" is a story in "Grimm's Fairy Tales" by Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm. There were six servants in the original German story, but the English translation by Edgar Taylor was bowdlerised so as not to frighten the children, and one of the servants with magical powers was omitted. One might think it found favour as a polka title because the super powers of the servants have parallels in Irish mythology, but in fact it was a random choice by Julia; when a title was required for the recording of herself and Billy, she flipped open a book of fairy tales and landed on this one.

The second polka was recorded by Julia on the album, "The Humours of Lisheen"; it came from her and Denis's father, Bill "The Waiver" Murphy. In a slightly different setting and with parts reversed, it's the first in the set of *Millstreet Polkas* popularised by Jackie Daly.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 1 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set 1 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

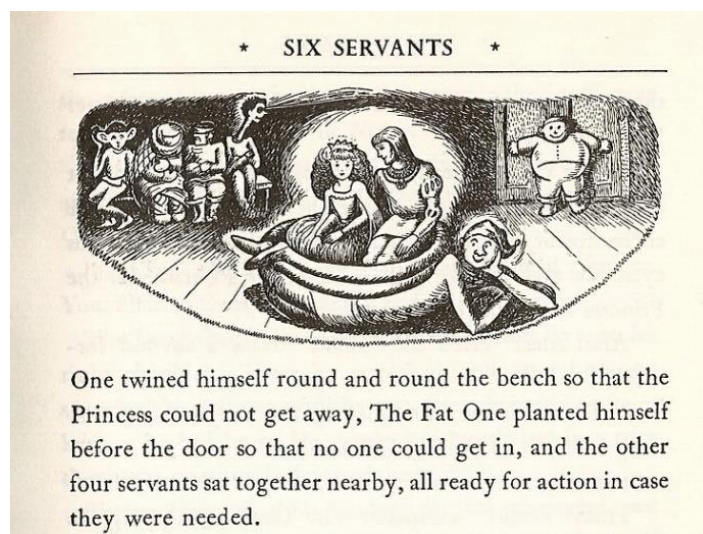
Original recording: [Stream Lisheen Attic Tape Cornelius P O Sullivan and Denis Murphy by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#) (starting at 6:40")

The Five Servants (key D: F#, C#)

DE | F- E F A | G- F G B | A- B C D' | E'F'G'E' D'-- |
BABC D'E'D'B | ABAG F A | G- E F E | D-- || (x 2)
F' D' F' D' | F'A'F'D' F' A' | E'- D' E' D' | E'F'G'E'D' B D' |
A-- F G | ABAG F A | G- E F E | D-- D-- || (x 2)

Julia Clifford's (key D: F#, C#)

A FF A B | A- F A F' | E'- D' E' F' | D'- A BCD'B |
A- F A B | A FF A F' | E' F' G' B' | E' F' D'-- || (x 2)
F'- A' G' E' | F'- A' G' E' | F' D' E' D' | E'F'E'D' B D' |
F'-- G' E' | F'- A' G' E' | F' D' E'F'G'E'C | D'-- D'-- || (x 2)



2. Jigs: The Humours of Castlecomer, Quinn's.

The Humours of Castlecomer

Musical notation for 'The Humours of Castlecomer'. The piece is in 6/8 time and D major. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Quinn's Jig

Musical notation for 'Quinn's Jig'. The piece is in 4/4 time and D major. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

2. Jigs: The Humours of Castlecomer, Quinn's.

The first jig is in the O'Neill collections in a similar setting; O'Neill seems to have borrowed it from Levey's second collection, published in 1873. R. M. Levey (real name Richard Michael O'Shaughnessy) was a successful orchestral musician in Dublin and London. In 1858 he published a collection of traditional music, stated to be collected from traditional fiddlers and fluters, titled "The Dance Music of Ireland"; a second collection under the same title followed in 1873. These were the first works devoted exclusively to Irish traditional dance music. Willie Reidy, of Scartaglin and Ballymacelligott, had both books; his nephew Johnny Reidy told Tony Buffery that Willie often sourced tunes from them.

The second jig is most likely named after Seán Quinn, a flute player from Cordal who gave a lot of music to Pádraig O'Keefe; an ornamented transcription of Denis's playing of it is in Breandán Breathnach's "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", vol. 2, no.64. A version of it is in the O'Neill collections as *Philip O'Neill*, probably named for Francis O'Neill's eldest brother; O'Neill said it was "Memorized from my mother's lilting." *The Two-and-Sixpenny Girl* in "Ryan's Mammoth Collection" has a very similar first part but a different second part.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 2 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 2 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording: [Stream Denis Murphy Various Audio Donations 6 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)

The Humours of Castlecomer (key E minor: F#, C#)

E-- EFA | BCD' A B- C | D' E' D' D' C B | A B A F E D |
E-- EFA | BCD' A B- C | D' C B A F D | E F E E-- || (x 2)
F' | E' B E' E' B E' | E' F' G' F'- E' | D' E' D' D' C B | A B A F E D |
E' B E' E' B E' | E' F' G' F'- E' | D' C B A F D | E F E E- F' ||
E' B E' E' B E' | E' F' G' F'- E' | D' E' D' D' C B | A B A F E D |
E-- EFA | BCD' A B- C | D' C B A F D | E F E E-- ||

Quinn's Jig (key G: F#)

G B B B- D' | C A A A B C | D' B G G F G | A B G F E D |
G B B B- D' | C A A A B C | D' C A A G F | G-- G- D || (x 2)
G B D' E' F' G' | F' A' G' E'- D' | B D' B G F G | A B G F E D |
G B D' E' F' G' | F' A' G' E'- D' | B D' B G F G | A G F G-- || (x 2)

3. Slides: Barrack Hill, If I Had a Wife.

Barrack Hill



Musical notation for the piece "Barrack Hill". It consists of four staves of music in G major and 12/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The second staff contains a first ending (marked "1.") and a second ending (marked "2."). The third and fourth staves continue the melody, with the fourth staff ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

If I Had a Wife



Musical notation for the piece "If I Had a Wife". It consists of nine staves of music in G major and 12/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The second staff continues the melody. The third and fourth staves feature a more complex melodic line with many eighth notes. The fifth and sixth staves continue this complex line, with the sixth staff ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The seventh and eighth staves continue the melody, with the eighth staff ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. The ninth staff concludes the piece with a final double bar line and repeat dots.

3. Slides: Barrack Hill, If I Had a Wife.

This set was recorded by Johnny O'Leary on the album, "Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra" (Craft CRC01), which was produced to accompany Terry Moylan's book of the same name; in that book, Johnny says of the second tune, "The Chieftains got it from myself and Denis", after Paddy Moloney and Seán Keane visited Kerry and spent several days listening to them.

Barrack Hill was first printed under that title in the Stanford/Petrie "Complete Collection", no. 926; a similar but not identical setting is in O'Neill's "Dance Music of Ireland", no. 410. Petrie commented: "This kind of jig is called in Munster a single jig. It had a peculiar kind of dance. Same as a Scotch tune." The latter reference is presumably to the strathspey, *The Haughs of Cromdale*, from which this tune does indeed seem to have been derived.

Polkas and slides are notorious for having no titles, or else being named for whoever last played them; the *Barrack Hill* title probably stuck because at one time every town would have had a military garrison, an essential feature of life if the natives fail to appreciate the benefits of occupation by a foreign power. Those Royal Irish Constabulary barracks that survived The War of Independence were quite often used as dance halls in the 1920s.

The first tune has acquired a song, beginning "The Cat Jumped into the Mouse's Hole and Didn't come Down 'til Morning", a sung version of the first phrase, which is how the dancers would identify it for a visiting musician unfamiliar with local tune titles. The full version is in the sleeve notes of the Johnny O'Leary album.

The title *If I Had a Wife* serves a similar mnemonic purpose; the verse is sung on The Chieftains recording: "If I had a wife,/ The plague of my life,/ I'll tell you what I'd do:/ I'd buy her a boat/ And set her afloat,/ And paddle my own canoe." An ornamented transcription of Denis's playing of it is in Breandán Breathnach's "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", vol. 2, no. 70, as *Nellie Mahony's Slide*; Breathnach notes that Denis also called it *Mad Dancing*.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 3 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slow WFD Recital Set No 3 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording: [Stream Lisheen Attic Tape Cornelius P O Sullivan and Denis Murphy by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)

(first set of tunes)

(ABCs overleaf)

Barrack Hill (key A minor: F#)

E'- A ABD' E'- D' B- D' | E'- A B- A G- A B- D' |
E'- A ABD' E'- D' B- D' | D'- B G- B A-- G'- F' ||
E'- A ABD' E'- D' B- D' | E'- A B- A G- A B- D' |
E'- A ABD' E'- D' B- D' | D'- B G- B A-- A-- ||

E-- E'F'G' A'B'A' G'- E' | D'- B D'- E' D'- B D'-- |
E'- D' E'F'G' A'B'A' G'F'E' | D'- B G- B A-- A-- || (x 2)

If I Had a Wife (key G: F#)

B- A ABD' E'- D' D'- B | AGA B- A G- D D-- |
B- A ABD' E'- D' D'- B | AGA B- A G-- G- A || (x 2)
G- G' G'F'G' A'G'E' D'- G' | E'A'A' A'B'A' G'- A' B'G'E' |
D'- G' G'F'G' A'G'E' D'-- | E'F'G' A'B'A' G'-- G'- E' ||
D'- G' G'F'G' A'G'E' D'-- | E'A'A' A'B'A' G'-- B'-- |
D'- G' G'F'G' A'G'E' D'-- | E'F'G' A'B'A' G'-- G'-- ||



*Mainie and Bill Murphy, Denis's parents.
Photo from Kathleen Fitzgerald, RIP.*



*Julia Clifford at Jack Lyons's pub, Scartaglin, 1976.
She is holding the remains of the fiddle kept
behind the bar for Pádraig O'Keeffe to play.
(Photo: Alan Ward)*



*Denis, Andy McGann and Lad O'Beirne at a Feis in Fordham, NY.
Photo from Julia Mary Murphy, RIP, reproduced in the booklet
with the RTÉ CD of Denis's music.*

4. Reels: The Bucks of Oranmore, Colonel Fraser.

The Bucks of Oranmore



4. Reels: The Bucks of Oranmore, Colonel Fraser.

These are two of the "big reels" in the traditional repertoire, with plenty of opportunity for virtuoso displays of ornamentation and variation. For ease of reading, ornamentation is not shown in these transcriptions, but many of the crotchet notes (quarter notes, or for example "A-" in the ABCs) would be ornamented, usually with a roll. The parts are not doubled.

The first tune seems to be derived from the Scottish reel *The Bucks of Cranmore*, named after a place in the Scottish Highlands; as with *The Lads of Leith/Laois*, the similarity to Oranmore, in County Galway, accounts for the change in the title. The original two-part tune has been elaborated into more than one multi-part setting in the Irish tradition (as *The Bucks of Oranmore* and also as *The Leitrim Bucks*, *The Killavil Bucks*, etc.); there's a four-part setting in O'Neill, from the variation addict John McFadden. Denis's three-part setting probably came from Pádraig O'Keeffe: a very similar setting is transcribed from Pádraig's playing in David Lyth's book, "Bowling Styles in Irish Fiddle Playing", vol. 2.

Colonel Fraser

The image shows a musical score for the tune 'Colonel Fraser'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves. The first staff is the melody, and the following seven staves are accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

There are conflicting stories as to who Colonel Fraser was, which need not detain us here; his tune also may be Scottish in origin, but it has been thoroughly Hibernicised by now, and there are quite a few versions in the Irish repertoire. Some are in mixolydian mode (with F natural), some in dorian mode (with F natural and B flat). Petrie had a three-part setting, *The Green Fields of Ireland*, which he described as "A Connaught Reel". The four-part setting in O'Neill, again from McFadden, is broadly similar to what Denis Murphy played.

Soundcloud links

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 4 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

(continued overleaf)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 4 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Bucks): [Listen to Padraig O Keeffe And Denis Murphy - 5 Lyons Bar Scartaglin 1961 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in Pádraig O Keeffe and Denis Murphy at Lyons Bar 1961 playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Colonel): [Listen to Denis Murphy Various Audio Donations 10 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in Denis Murphy Fiddle / Various Archive Donations from many sources playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

The Bucks of Oranmore (key D: F#, C#)

D'B | A- FA A- D'B | A- FA BE E- | A- FA DAFA | ABD'E' F'E'D'B |
A- FA A- D'B | A- FA BE E- | A- FA DAFA | ABD'E' F'E'D'E' ||
F'- D'F' E'- D'E' | F'D'D'F' E'B B- | F'- D'F' E'- D'F' | E'F'G' F'G' E'D'BE'
F'- D'F' E'- D'E' | F'D'F'D' E'B B- | A'- A'F' A'- A'F' | E'- F'E' E'D'D'B ||
AD'F'D' E'D'F'D' | AD'F'D' E'B B- | AD'F'D' E'D'D'E' | F'G'A'G' F'D'D'B |
AD'F'D' E'D'F'D' | AD'F'D' E'B B- | A'- A'F' A'- A'F' | E'- F'E' E'D' D'- ||

Colonel Fraser (key G: F#)

BG G- DG G- | ABCA BCD' CA | BGGF DGBD' | CAFA AG G- |
BG G- DG G- | ABCA BD'CA | BG G- DGAB | CAFA AG G- ||
D'G' G'- G'A'G'F' | D'BCB ABCA | D'G' G'- A-- G' | F'D'CA BG G- |
E'F'G'E' D'E'D'B | CBCA BD'CA | GBAC BCD' E'G' | F'D'CA AG G- ||
B- GB D'BGB | A- FA CAFA | B- GB GBDE' | F'D'CA AG G- |
B- GB GBGB | A- FA FAFA | GBAC BCD' E'G' | F'D'CA BG G- ||
D'G' G'- D'G' G'- | D'F' F'- D'F' F'- | D'G' G'- D'G' G'- | F'D'CA BG G- |
D'G' G'- G'A'G'E' | D'F' F'- F'G'A' E'F' | GBAC BCD' E'G' | F'D'CA BG G- ||



Denis with Jimmy Doyle: "The long and the short of Irish music", as Denis said.



*Denis Murphy, c. 1965.
Photo from Dan O'Connell, RIP.*

"On one of my visits to see him [Denis Murphy] he told me that, some years before, Seamus Ennis had arrived in Kerry with Dylan Thomas, the Welsh poet. They had taken Denis off with them up around the west of Ireland and out to the Aran Islands on an endless drinking and music spree. Denis said that after a couple of weeks of this he just wanted to get home. He said: 'You'd want to just get your hand on a spade.'"
(from Ivor Browne's book, "Music and Madness".)

5. Jigs: Duggan's Favourite, Sixpenny Money.

Duggan's Favourite



Sixpenny Money



The image contains two sets of musical notation for jigs. The first set, titled "Duggan's Favourite", consists of four staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. The second set, titled "Sixpenny Money", consists of four staves of music in G major and 6/8 time. Both pieces feature first and second endings and repeat signs.



Mikey Duggan (photo by Matt Cranitch)

5. Jigs: Duggan's Favourite, Sixpenny Money.

The first tune has that title in the Johnny O'Leary book; I have not found it anywhere else. Johnny got it from Mikey Duggan of Knockrour East, Scartaglin, a well-known fiddle player and one of Pádraig O'Keeffe's many former pupils. He also learned from Denis Murphy and from a neighbour, Eileen Spillane (concertina, fiddle), whose home was a rambling house, with storytelling and a half set in the evenings. Mikey died in 2012 at the age of 91. He was a major influence on fiddler Matt Cranitch and had a great store of tunes, which he shared generously. He received the 2006 Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival Award for services to Sliabh Luachra music.

The second tune is a nice version of this well-known jig. The second D note shown in bar 3 of the first part is a variation on the repeat.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD 2024 Recital : Set No 5 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 5 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Duggan's): [Stream Denis Murphy Various Audio Donations 3 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Sixpenny): [Stream Lisheen Attic Tape Cornelius P O Sullivan and Denis Murphy by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)

(starting at 3':45")

Duggan's Favourite (key D: F#, C#)

A- F DFA | BE'E' BE'E' | D'- B AFA | BCD' E'D'B |
AFE DFA | BE'E' BE'E' | F'G'A'F' E'D'E' | F'D'D' D-- || (x 2)
F'G' | A'- F' D'F'A' | B'E'E' E'D'E' | F'E'F' D'F'A' | G'F'G' E'F'G' |
A'- F' D'F'A' | B'E'E' E'D'E' | F'G'A'F' E'D'E' | F'D'D' D-- || (x 2)

Sixpenny Money (key D: F#, C#)

AFA D'AF | BAG FGE | DFA A(or D)FA | D'F'D' E'- D' |
AFA A- A | BAG FGE | DFA AFA | D'F'D' E'- D' || (x 2)
F-- G'-- | A'F'D' E'CA | F'G'A'F' G'F'G' | A'F'D' E'D'E' |
F-- G'-- | A'F'D' E'CB | ABA AFA | D'F'D' E'- D' || (x 2)
F-- G'B'B' | (variation)

6. Slides: Art O'Keeffe's (1 and 2).

Art O'Keeffe's (1)

Musical score for Art O'Keeffe's (1) in G major, 12/8 time. The piece consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The melody is characterized by a steady eighth-note pulse with occasional dotted rhythms and triplet patterns. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Art O'Keeffe's (2)

Musical score for Art O'Keeffe's (2) in G major, 12/8 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 12/8 time signature. The melody features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a first ending bracketed over the final two measures of the first line. The second ending is marked with a '2.' and leads to a final double bar line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

6. Slides: Art O'Keeffe's (1 and 2).

I can find no other setting of the first tune. It and the second one come from a recording made by Maura McConnell when Cathal McConnell and Len Graham visited Denis during the 1972 Listowel Fleadh; the recordings were made in a pub in Listowel and in Denis's house. We know that the whistle player on this track is not Cathal McConnell. I believe, but can't prove with absolute certainty, that it's Denis's neighbour and good friend, Art O'Keeffe, who is definitely associated with the second tune: so I've applied his name to the two tunes. Art played fiddle and tin whistle, and was also a singer; he was one of the last surviving members of the Lisheen fife-and-drum band with whom Denis's father Bill "The Waiver" played. There are several other slides (and polkas) named for him.

The second slide is also in the Johnny O'Leary book, no. 345, as *Denis McMahon's Slide*; it has also acquired the rather drawing-room title of *Echoes of Killarney*. But *Art O'Keeffe's* is what it's called on the RTÉ CD of Denis Murphy. PW Joyce has a similar setting, but as a song air, *The Yellow Horse*, in his "Old Irish Folk Music and Songs" (1909), from a manuscript "lent to me in 1873 by Mr. J. O'Sullivan, of Bruff, Co. Limerick."

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 6 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Stream Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 6 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording: [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to Part 2 / Cathal McConnell, Len Graham Visit to Denis Murphy in 1972 playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Art O'Keeffe's (1) (key G: F#)

G'- E' | D'- B B- E' D'- B B- A | GBD' E'- F' G'-- G'- E' |
D'- B B- E' D'- B BAB | E'- C A- G A-- E'G'E' |
D'- B B- E' D'- B B- A | GBD' E'- F' G'-- G'- A' |
B'A'G' A'G'F' G'- F' E'- D' | E'F'G' D'- B A-- E'F'G' |
F'- D' E'D'B D'-- D'- G' | F'- D' E'D'B D'-- D'- B |
GBD' E'- F' G'A'G' F'- E' | D'E'D' CBA G-- G-- ||

Art O'Keeffe's (2) (key G: F#)

D | G-- G- A B- D' E'F'G'E' | D'- B BAB D'- B BAB |
GEG G- A B- D' E'F'G'E' | D'- B ABA G-- G-- || (x 2)
G'F'G' E'D'D' E'- F' G'- E' | D'- B BAB D'- B BAB |
G'F'G' E'D'D' E'- F' G'- E' | D'- B ABCA G-- G-- || (x 2)

7. Jigs: Have a Drink With me, The Girl of the Big House.

Have a Drink With Me

The Girl of the Big House

back to start

7. Jigs: Have a Drink With Me, The Girl of the Big House.

The first tune is generally similar to the standard setting, but has a lovely variation in bar 4 of the first part. Francis O'Neill wrote of his setting, "I memorized [it] from my mother's lilting, and as far as I can learn had no circulation outside of my native locality, where unfortunately [it is] even now forgotten" (despite that, his setting is a near-duplicate of *Vaughan's Favourite* in "Ryan's Mammoth Collection", published in faraway Boston). It is in the Johnny O'Leary book in the key of A, and without that bar 4 variation, titled *Thade Janey Buckley's Favourite*. Arguably the origin of the tune to which "The Hole in the Bucket" is sung.

The second tune is in Breathnach's "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", vol. 2, no. 40, transcribed from Denis's playing. Julia's recording of it on "The Humours of Lisheen" is very similar. It's likely that they both got it from Tom Billy Murphy: the archaic style is his, and the four-notes-in-the-time-of three figure at the end, linking back to the start of the tune, is a characteristic Tom Billy flourish. There is a lot of scope for ornamentation in this tune (see the Breathnach transcription), but for ease of reading none is shown here: better to get the basics right before adding rolls, etc.

This setting differs in several ways from those in O'Neill and Petrie. Petrie got it from PW Joyce, who called it *The Housekeeper*; Petrie described it as "a very characteristic specimen of the true old Irish jig, a very popular dance tune in the counties of Cork, Kerry and Limerick, in all of which it is considered to be very ancient, and to have been originally used as a march." There is another Kerry setting in the Goodman collection, broadly similar but with a third part not found elsewhere.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 7 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 7 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Have): [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to Part 1 / Cathal McConnell, Len Graham Visit to Denis Murphy in 1972 playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Girl): [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to Part 2 / Cathal McConnell, Len Graham Visit to Denis Murphy in 1972 playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Have a Drink With Me (key G: F#)

BAG EGD | EGD EGA | BAG BAG | EDB, A,B,D |
BAG EGD | EGD EGA | BD'B AGD | EGG G-- || (x 2)
GBD' E'- D' | E'F'G' B- A | GBD' E'- D' | E'A'A' A'G'A' |
B'A'G' A'G'F' | G'F'E' D'BG| B-- AGD | EGG G-- || (x 2)

The Girl of the Big House (key D: F#, C# except twice where marked as natural, C[♯])

E | F- D G- E | A- D FED | EFA G- E | FED EDE |
FEF GFG | AGA CD'E' | D'CA GEA | DED D- || (x 2)
F | ABC[♯] AGF | G-- GFG | A- B C[♯]AG | ABC D'- E' |
F'E'D' CAG | FAG FED | D'CA GEA | DED D- || (x 2)
last bar on repeat, linking back to start: | DEFA D'CAG ||

8. Reels: Quinn's, Dónal a' Phumpa.

The image displays a musical score for two reels. The first section, titled "Quinn's", is in 4/4 time and D major. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves form the first strain, and the last two staves form the second strain, which includes two first endings (marked "1." and "2.") leading to a double bar line. The second section, titled "Dónal a' Phumpa", is also in 4/4 time and D major. It consists of four staves of music, with the first two staves forming the first strain and the last two staves forming the second strain. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

8. Reels: Quinn's, Dónal a' Phumpa.

Like *Quinn's Jig* in set 2, this first tune is most likely named after Seán Quinn, a flute player from Cordal who gave a lot of music to Pádraig O'Keeffe. An ornamented transcription of Denis's playing of it is in Breandán Breathnach's "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", vol. 2, no. 171; it is also in the Johnny O'Leary book, no. 12. In both of those settings, the tune finishes on a high D, which is nice. The tune also appears, untitled, in the book, "Trip to Sligo", page 107(b), so it is not solely a local tune.

It is closely related to *Craig's Reel*, no. 488 in O'Neill's "Dance Music of Ireland", which in turn seems to have derived from the Scottish reel, *The Merry Lads of Foss*, no. 61 in vol. 4 of

Aird's "Selections", published in 1794. Jackie Daly recorded *Craig's Reel* on his "Many's a Wild Night" album.

Breathnach also transcribed the second tune from Denis, and it appears in vol. 5 of "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", no. 147. I don't know who Dónal with the pump was. There is a separate tune called *Dónal a' Clamper's Reel* (a version of *Patsy Tuohey's Favourite*), and I wonder if that was also meant to be the title of this one: the reference would be to Dónal or Daniel O'Sullivan, who owned the dancehall at Clamper where Jack "The Lighthouse" Connell, among others, played in the 1930s and '40s. Clamper Bridge crosses the Araglen river a few miles north of Kiskeam. The title of the polka, *The Shady Road to Clamper*, refers to the same place. Or all that could be irrelevant.

In both tunes, many of the long notes (crotchets, or quarter-notes) would be ornamented, typically with a roll.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 8 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 8 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Quinn): [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to Part 2 / Cathal McConnell, Len Graham Visit to Denis Murphy in 1972 playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Dónal): [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to Part 2 / Cathal McConnell, Len Graham Visit to Denis Murphy in 1972 playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Quinn's Reel (key D: F#, C#, except where marked natural, C[♯], in final bar)

D- FA BAFA | D'F'E'D' BE E- | D- FA BAFA | D'BAG FGAF |
D- FA BAFA | D'F'E'D' BE E- | D- FA BAFA | D'BAG FD D- || (x 2)
D'- F'D' AD'F'D' | G'- F'G' E'B B- | D'- F'D' AD'F'D' | F'A'F' E'G' F'D' D'- |
D'- F'D' AD'F'D' | G'- F'G' E'B B- | F'G'F'E' D'CD'B | ABC[♯] AG FA D- || (x 2)

Dónal a' Phumpa (key G: F#)

GEED B- BA | GBD'B AGED | GEED B- BA | GBD'B A- G- |
GEED B- BA | GBD'B AGED | GB B- D'B B- | GBD'B A- G- ||
G'- F'G' E'AD'B | GABG AG E- | G'F'G'F' E'D'BD' | E'A'A'G' A'- G'- |
G'B'G'F' E'ABA | GABA AGED | GB B- D'B B- | GBD'B A- G- || (x 2)

9. Jigs: Rattle the Quilt, The Stick Across the Hob.

Rattle the Quilt

The musical score for 'Rattle the Quilt' is presented in six staves. The first staff is the main melody. The second and fourth staves show first and second endings. The third and fifth staves are variations of the first part. The sixth staff is a final variation. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8.

9. Jigs: Rattle the Quilt, The Stick Across the Hob.

The first jig is another tune that Breandán Breathnach transcribed from Denis's playing in 1966; it is no. 53 in vol. 5 of "Ceol Rince na hÉireann". In that book Jackie Small writes: "Printed in Treoir, Vol. 2, number 3, p12, as *Tom Billy's Jig*' where there is a note with it '- see Padraig Ó Caoimh's manuscript'." The book version lacks the third part shown here, which however is really just a variation on the first part.

Rattle the Quilt is a variant of *Apples in Winter*, in a higher key; the first parts are more or less the same, the others less similar. Denis's nice four-part version of *Apples in Winter* is on the RTÉ CD of his music; it is similar to the version in "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", vol. 2, no. 33, from County Limerick fiddler James McEnery, titled *The Unfortunate Rake*, which Breathnach said was Philip Walsh's setting; Walsh was a blind fiddler from Maol Mountain, near the Murphy home in Lisheen, the source of *Sliabh Maol* (see set 10) and *Walsh's Hornpipe*, among other tunes.

The Stick Across the Hob

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of eight staves. The first staff starts with a repeat sign and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff includes first and second endings. The final staff is marked 'to finish' and ends with a double bar line.

The second tune is a wonderful version of one of the best-known jigs in the repertoire, usually known as *Morrison's*, because it was popularised by Sligo fiddling legend James Morrison on a 1936 recording made in New York. Morrison got it from a member of his band, accordion player Tom Carmody from Dromlought, near Listowel in North Kerry, who in turn had it from his father Maurice. Morrison recorded it as *Maurice Carmody's Favourite* (apparently one batch was mis-labelled *Maurice Comedy's Favourite*), but it was known in Kerry as *The Stick Across the Hob*. Johnny O'Leary played a three-part version, basically the same as Denis's, which he got from Pádraig O'Keeffe in Lyons' pub in Scartaglin, and christened it *Lyons' Favourite*; it's in Terry Moylan's book of Johnny's music, no. 198. The three-part version is sometimes called *O'Keeffe's Morrison's*, but Pádraig didn't have to go to Morrison for it; the tune never left Kerry.

As mentioned previously, the long notes would be ornamented.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024 : Set No 9 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 9 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Rattle): [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to Denis Murphy Fiddle / Various Archive Donations from many sources playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

(starting c.2':32")

Original recording (Stick): [Listen to Pádraig O Keefe And Denis Murphy - 4 Lyons Bar Scartaglin 1961 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in Pádraig O Keefe and Denis Murphy at Lyons Bar 1961 playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

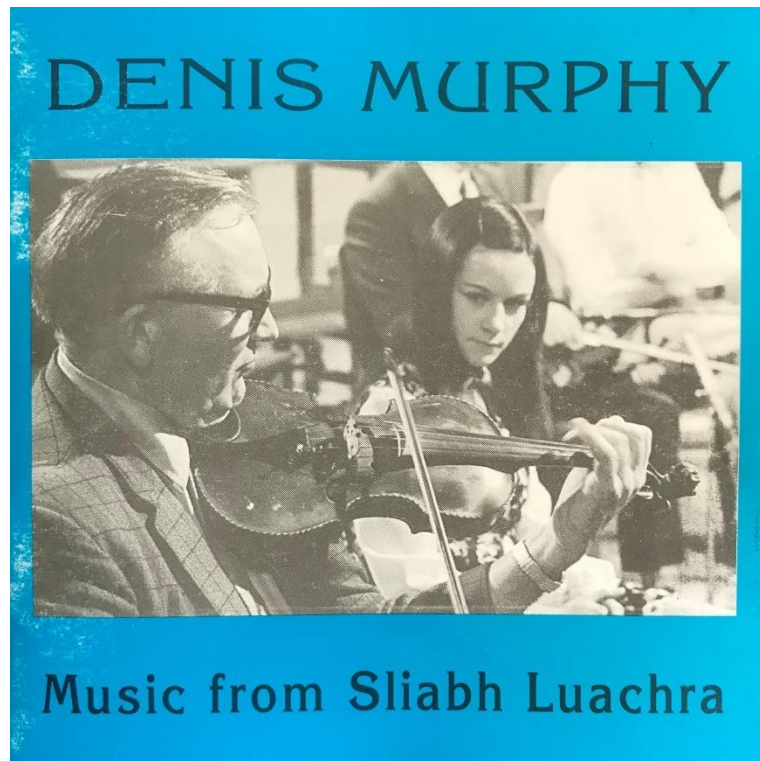
Rattle the Quilt (key A minor: F#)

F' | E'AA G'F'G' | E'D'B BAB | G- A BAB | D'E'F' G'F'G' |
E'AA G'F'G' | E'D'B BAA | F'G'A'F' G'D'B | BAA A- || (x 2)
E'- A' A'G'E' | A'-- B'G'E' | G'A'E' G'D'B | GBD' G'-- |
E'A'A' E'A'A' | E'G'G' E'G'G' | D'E'F' G'F'G' | E'D'B AG'F' || (x 2)
E'- F' G'F'G' | E'D'B BAB | G-- BAB | D'E'F' G'F'G' |
E'D'E' G'F'G' | E'D'B BAA | F'G'A'F' G'D'B | BAA A-- || (x 2)

The Stick Across the Hob (key E minor: F#)

Repeats written out in full

E-- B-- | ABB AFD | EDE B-- | E'BB AFD |
E-- B-- | ABB AFA | BAF ABD' | E'D'B AFD ||
E-- B-- | ABB AFD | EDE B-- | E'BB AFD |
E-- B-- | ABB AFA | BAF ABD' | E'D'B ABD' ||
E'F'E' E'F'A' | B'A'F' F'E'D' | BE'E' E'- F' | A'- F' D'F'A' |
B'-- A'- F' | E'F'E' D'E'F' | G'F'G' F'E'D' | BAB D'BA ||
BE'E' F'E'E' | B'E'E' F'E'D' | BE'E' E'- F' | A'- F' D'F'A' |
B'-- A'- F' | E'F'E' D'E'F' | G'- F' F'E'D' | BAB D'BA ||
G'-- F'-- | E'F'E' D'- E' | F'E'F' D'E'F' | E'D'B D'BA |
G'F'E' F'E'D' | E'D'B D'- E' | F'E'F' D'E'F' | E'D'B D'BA ||
G'-- F'-- | E'F'E' D'- E' | F'E'F' D'E'F' | E'D'B D'BA |
G'F'E' F'E'D' | E'D'B D'- E' | F'E'F' D'E'F' | E'D'B AFD || E-- ||



Cover of the RTÉ CD of Denis's music.



*Denis pictured on a visit to Micheal Coleman's birthplace
at Knockgrania, Killavil, County Sligo, in 1939.
Photo from Julia Mary Murphy, RIP, reproduced in the
booklet with the RTÉ CD of Denis's music.*

10. Reels: Sliabh Maol, The Game Cock.

Sliabh Maol



The musical score for 'Sliabh Maol' is written in treble clef, 4/4 time, and D major. It consists of seven staves. The first staff begins with the title 'Sliabh Maol'. The piece features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes. A first and second ending are marked with '1.' and '2.' above the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to E major, indicated by a sharp sign on the F line.

(back to start) to finish

The Game Cock



The musical score for 'The Game Cock' is written in treble clef, 4/4 time, and D major. It consists of three staves. The piece begins with a double bar line and a key signature change to D major, indicated by two sharp signs (F# and C#). The melody is characterized by a steady eighth-note rhythm.



Molly Myers Murphy

10. Reels: Sliabh Maol, The Game Cock.

Sliabh Maol, or Maol Mountain, is for some reason now called Barr an Bheithe ("birch summit"), anglicised as Baraveha; perhaps because it's now covered in tree plantations and is no longer "maol" (bald); it is also called Knockanfune (An Cnocán Fionn, "the white hillock"). At 451m, it is the highest hill in the east Kerry area; in a valley on its flank rises the mighty Blackwater river. The blind fiddler Philip Walsh lived there, and may have composed this reel; Breandán Breathnach printed it as *Walsh's Reel* in "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", vol. 1, no. 70, from the fiddler Dennis Cronin. Whether Philip Walsh or not, whoever composed this reel somehow managed to make something fresh while using the much hackneyed opening gambit of some variant of a G major arpeggio.

The second tune is descended from the Scottish reel, *The Game Cock*, in vol. 6 of James Aird's "Selections" (1803); that title is used in "Ceol Rince na hÉireann", vol. 4, no. 62 (as a slide) and vol. 5, no. 158, as a reel. The slide came, untitled, from the David Collins mss.; the reel was played for Breathnach by Denis Murphy and Mollie Myers Murphy (no relation: her husband Willie Murphy was a nephew of Tom Billy Murphy). The CRÉ transcription shows just two parts; the third part shown here differs only by one note from the first part, but is worth having anyway. Denis and Mollie played the parts in this order: A-B-C-B-A-B-C-B.

Jackie Daly composed a different third part, and christened the reel *The Bog Carrot*; he recorded it on the first Buttons and Bows album. "Sound as a bog carrot" is a phrase that Jackie heard used by Jackie Small (coincidentally the editor of vols. 4 and 5 of CRÉ). To avoid confusion, it seems useful to continue to use *The Game Cock* as the title for the version without Jackie Daly's third part.

Soundcloud links:

Normal tempo: [Listen to WFD Recital 2024: Set No 10 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in World Fiddle Day Recital 2024- Aidan Connolly Tribute to Denis Murphy playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Slowed down: [Listen to Played Slowly WFD Recital Set No 10 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive in The 2024 Setlist Played Slowly - Learn the Sets for WFD Recital in Scartaglin playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Sliabh): [Stream Pdraig O Keefe And Denis Murphy - 17 Lyons Bar Scartaglin 1961 by Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen online for free on SoundCloud](#)

Original recording (Game): [Stream Handed Down Sliabh Luachra Audio Archive | Listen to Mollie Myers and Denis Murphy Rare Duet playlist online for free on SoundCloud](#)

(ABCs overleaf)

Sliabh Maol (key G: F#)

DEF | G- BG DGBG | DGBG D'BGB | AFDF ABCD' | E'F'G' F'A' G'E'D'B |
G- BG DGBE' | D'BGB D'- E'F' | G'- F'G' E'CAG | FED EF G- || (x 2)
E'F' | G'- B'G' D'G'B'G' | F'- A'F' D'F'A'F' | G'- B'G' D'G'B'G' | F'D'E'F' G'D'BD' |
G'- B'G' D'G'B'G' | F'- A'F' D'F'A'F' | B'G'A'F' G'F'E'D' | BCD' E'F' G'- || (x 2)

The Game Cock (key D: F#, C#)

FAD'A BAD'A | BCD' AF E- E- | FAD'A BAD'A | BCD' AF D-- || (x 2)
F'- FE' D'E'F'G' | A'F'D'F' E'- E'- | F'- FE' D'E'F'E' | D'BAF D-- || (x 2)
BAD'A BAD'A | BCD' AF E- E- | FAD'A BAD'A | BCD' AF D-- || (x 2)



*Julia Clifford, Denis Murphy and Johnny O'Leary,
playing at Billy Clifford's wedding in 1968.*