

# Kingston Irish Slow Session Beginner's Tunebook

Selected Easier Oirs, Jigs, Polkas, Reels, and Hornpipes



A sampling of easier tunes played at the weekly slow session, suitable for beginner's or experienced musicians new to the Irish repertoire.

**Sponsored by:**

**Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann (CCE) -  
(The Society of Irish Musicians)  
Kingston Harp of Tara Branch**

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Web Sites: Harp of Tara <http://www.srayner.ca/comhaltas/>  
CCE [www.comhaltas.ie](http://www.comhaltas.ie)

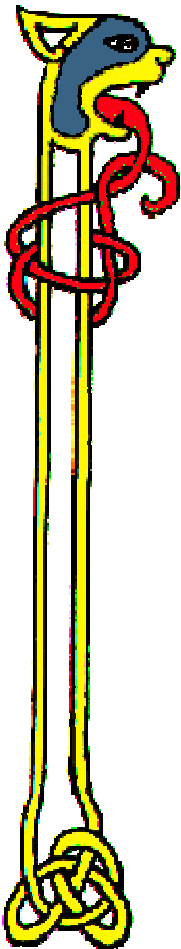
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A **session** (seisiún) is just a bunch of friends in a circle, enjoying a few tunes together. A 'slow' session is a session for people new to their instruments or for experienced musicians new to the Irish repertoire. There's a limited, easy to learn repertoire, and the tunes are played at an accessible pace. .

**Harp of Tara sponsors a weekly slow session, every Tuesday evening at 7:30, at Ben's Pub in the winter and outside in the summer.** The slow session welcomes people of all ages, at all levels, on all instruments. We provide a music book, and cds of the tunes played slowly. It's an excellent way for beginners to see how much fun a trad session can be and also a good place for the more experienced to pick up a tune or two. The atmosphere is friendly and the tunes are wonderful. No charge.

Check the Harp of Tara Website - the 'Music' page - for further details:

<http://www.srayner.ca/comhaltas/>



## The Tunes

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Note: a very good introduction to the playing of Irish music, an explanation of the different kinds of tunes – jigs, flings etc. and an introduction to the modes – Dorian, Aeolian etc, and be found on the web at <http://www.treelight.com/music/irishmusic.html>



# AIRS, SONGS

Air, March

## Dawning of the Day / On Raglan Road

Fáinne Gael an Lae ("The bright ring of the day")

D Major

Musical notation for 'Dawning of the Day / On Raglan Road' in D Major, 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. Above the first staff are the chords D, F#, F#M, and D. The second staff begins at measure 6 and has chords Bm, D, and F#m. The third staff begins at measure 10 and has chords Bm, D, and E. The fourth staff begins at measure 14 and has chords F#, F#m, D, and D. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Air

## Sally Gardens

Tune: Maids of the Mourne Shore, Trad., F  
Arranged for whistle

D Major

Musical notation for 'Sally Gardens' in D Major, 4/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (D major), and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. Above the first staff are the chords D, A, G, D, G. The second staff begins at measure 5 and has chords D, A, G, D, G, A. The third staff begins at measure 9 and has chords D, Bm, F#m, G, A. The fourth staff begins at measure 13 and has chords D, A, G, D, G, A, D. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Sally Gardens

(Words: W. B. Yeats, 1889.)

Tune: Maids of the Mourne Shore, Trad.)

In a field down by the river, my love and I did stand  
And on my leaning shoulder, she laid her snow-white hand.  
She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs  
But I was young and foolish, and now am full of tears.

It was down by the Sally Gardens, my love and I did meet.  
She crossed the Sally Gardens with little snow-white feet.  
She bid me take love easy, as the leaves grow on the tree,  
But I was young and foolish, and with her did not agree.

Down by the Sally Gardens, my love and I did meet.  
She crossed the Sally Gardens with little snow-white feet.  
She bid me take love easy, as the leaves grow on the tree,  
But I was young and foolish, and with her did not agree.

# POLKAS

## Egan's Polka

Polka

aka The Kerry, Peg Ryan's.

D Major

5

9

13

## O The Britches Full of Stitches

Polka

E Mixolydian

5

9

13

# POLKA / FLING

## Top of Maol

Polka

A Minor - Dorian

5

9

13

Fling

## "Cuz" Teehan's

Terry "Cuz" Teehan's Fling, No. 1 aka The Kerry Fling

E Minor - Aeolian

5

9

13

1. ending

2. ending

Source: Maeve Donnelly Workshop sponsored by Harp of Tara

# JIGS

## Drumshanbo Jig

Jig

E Minor - Aeolian

Musical score for Drumshanbo Jig, E Minor - Aeolian. The score consists of five staves of music in 6/8 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first staff starts with an Em chord. The second staff has measures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 with chords D, Em, C, D, and Em. The third staff has measures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 with chords Em, D, Em, D, and Em. The fourth staff has measures 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 with chords G, D, Em, C, D, and Em. The fifth staff has measures 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 with chords Em, D, C, D, and Em. The score includes first and second endings and repeat signs.

## Killavil Jig

Jig

E Minor - Aeolian

Musical score for Killavil Jig, E Minor - Aeolian. The score consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The first staff starts with an Em chord. The second staff has measures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The third staff has measures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. The fourth staff has measures 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22. The score includes repeat signs.

# SLIDES

Slide

## Road to Lisdoonvarna

E Dorian

Em D Em A Em

5 Em G A Bm Em G A Fm Em

Slide

## O'Keefe's Slide

A Dorian

Am G Am G

4 Am G Em G

6 Am Em Am Em

9 G D Em Am

# HORNPIPES

Hornpipe

## Boys of Bluehill

D Major

D G A D A

4 D G D G A

7 D A 1. D 2. D

10 D A D A

13 D G D G A

16 D A 1. D 2. D

## Off to California

Hornpipe

G Major

3 G D G C G C G D A D 3

5 G D G C G C G D G

9 Em D Em G C G D A D 3

14 G G C G C G D G

# REELS

## Banshee, The

Reel

G Major

Play 4 Times

---- Ending ----

## Castle Kelly

Reel

A Minor - Aeolian