

The Ballydesmond Polka (1)

The musical score for "The Ballydesmond Polka (1)" is presented in six staves of music. The key signature is D Major (one sharp) and the time signature is 2/4. The first staff is marked with a boxed 'A' and contains measures 1-4 with chords D, C, D, and Am7. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords D, C, D, Am7, and D. The third staff is marked with a boxed 'B' and contains measures 9-12 with chords D, Am7, D, and Am7. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with a D chord. The fifth staff contains measures 17-20 with chords Am7, D, and Am7. The sixth staff contains measures 21-24 with chords C, D, C, D, Am7, and D.

"The Ballydesmond Polka", also known as "Donncha Lynch's", "Johnny O'Leary's", "Cock Your Pistol Charlie", "Donal De Barra's", "The Jib", "Manley's" or "Maurice Manley's" is an Irish polka in D Major/Mixolydian. The parts are played AAB (Miller & Perron, Moylan), AABB (Cowdery) or AABB' (Mallinson).

It comes from the *Sliabh Luachra* region of the Cork-Kerry border of Ireland.

Ballydesmond, County Kerry, lies in the heart of the *Sliabh Luachra* region. It was formerly known as Kingwilliamstown and was a 'planned village' established in the 1830's at the junction of two new roads. Until then there were few roads in that region of south Ireland. The "Ballydesmond Polkas" numbers 1, 2 and 3, are usually played as a group and are known collectively as "The Ballydesmond Polkas". Cowdery (1990) finds this first melody is a form of the A and A' sections of the old ballad "Boyne Water".

It was printed in Cowdery's **Melodic Tradition of Ireland** (1990), Mallinson's **100 Irish Polkas** (1997), McCullough's **Complete Irish Tinwhistle Tutor** (1976), Miller & Perron's **101 Polkas**, 1978) and **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music** (2006), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra** (1994), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), Perlman's **Melodic Clawhammer Banjo** (1979), Valley's **Play the Tin Whistle with Armagh Pipers Club, vol. 2**.

It was recorded by Red Clay Ramblers on **Stolen Love** (1975)., Denis Murphy & Julia Clifford on **The Star Above the Garter** (1973) and John, Julia and Billy Clifford on **The Star of Munster Trio**.