

Bantry Bay Hornpipe

The musical score for Bantry Bay Hornpipe is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a boxed letter 'A' above it. The second staff continues the melody and includes a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above it. The third staff starts with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above it and a boxed letter 'B' above it. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff concludes the piece with two first ending brackets labeled '1.' and '2.' above them. Chords are indicated by letters above the notes: G, C, G, Am, D7, G, D7, C, G, D7, G, C, G, Em, G, D7, G, C, G, C, D7, G, C, G, C, D7, G, C.

"Bantry Bay", in Gaelic "*Cuain Beantraige*", also known "James McKenney's Hornpipe", "Little Stack of Wheat" or "Union Hornpipe" is an Irish hornpipe in cut time and G Major. The parts are played ABB (Miller & Perron, Moylan) or AABB (Allan's, Miller & Perron/2006, O'Neill, Tubridy).

Collector and compiler Captain Francis O'Neill was quite taken by the tune, calling it "one of the most delightful traditional hornpipes in existence".

The name Bantry is derived from the Gaelic *ben*, meaning 'horn' and refers to mountains; thus, Bantry is 'the peaks by the sea shore'. Bantry Bay is off the west coast of Ireland, at County Galway. The tune closely shares melodic material with "*An TSeambhean Bhocht*" and "Tomeen O'Dea's Reel," with which it is paired in the Tubridy book.

Perhaps the earliest appearances of the melody are in the music manuscript collections of Lake District (Cumbria) musician William Irwin (c. 1838) as "James McKenney's Hornpipe" and County Cork Church of Ireland cleric James Goodman's mid-19th century manuscripts, under the title "Union Hornpipe".

It was printed in McDermott's **Allan's Irish Fiddler** (c. 1920's), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music** (1977) and **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, 2nd Edition** (2006), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra** (1994), O'Neill's **O'Neill's Irish Music** (1915), Krassen's **O'Neill's Music of Ireland** (1976), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903), O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907), Phillips' **Fiddle Case Tunebook: British Isles** (1989) and Tubridy's **Irish Traditional Music, vol. 1** (1999).

It was recorded by Michael Coleman & P.J. Dolan (1927) (78 RPM), Dexter et al on **Over the Water** (1993), Michael Coleman (1934) (78 RPM), Frank Ferrel on **Yankee Dreams: Wicked Good Fiddling from New England** (1991), Martin Byrnes on **Martin Byrnes** (1969), The West Orttanna String Band on **An Orttanna Home Companion** (1978), Michael Coleman & P.J. Dolan et al on **Round the House and Mind the Dresser: Irish Country-House Dance Music**.