

The Battle of Aughrim

The musical score for "The Battle of Aughrim" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above the first measure. The second staff ends with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above the final measure. The third staff begins with a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above the first measure, followed by a boxed letter 'B' above the fourth measure. The fifth staff begins with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above the first measure, followed by a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above the second measure. The chords used throughout the piece are Am and Em.

Am Em

Am Em 1. Am

2. Am Am Em Am Em

Am Em Am Em

1. Am 2. Am

"The Battle of Aughrim", in Gaelic "*Cath Eachroma*" also known as "Lament for the Battle of Aughrim" or "Loch Torridon" is an Irish march in 2/4 time, polka or lament in E Aeolian (Brody) or A Dorian (most versions). The parts are played one part (Brody, O'Neill), AABB (Cowdery, Mallinson, Mitchell, Sullivan, Tubridy) or AA'BB (Breathnach, Harker/Rafferty, Miller & Perron).

The Battle of Aughrim was the last great defeat of the native Gaelic army in Ireland, on July 12th, 1691 (old style, equivalent to July 22nd new style) following the defeat of the Stuart forces at the Battle of the Boyne.

Estimates of the two armies' losses vary, but they were extremely heavy overall; it is generally agreed that at least 7,000 men were killed at Aughrim.

Aughrim is located near Ballinasloe, County Galway, about 30 miles from Galway city and is a small village.

The victory of the Williamite forces over the Irish under St. Ruhe and Sarsfield marked the end of the old Gaelic aristocracy and is commemorated in the present-day Orange celebration of July the 12th.

Cowdery (1990) finds the melody another expansion/contraction of the central musical motifs of the old ballad air "Boyne Water".

It was printed in Breathnach's *Ceol Rince na hÉireann* II (1976), (appears as "*Cath Eachroma*"), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Bulmer & Sharpley's **Music from Ireland** (1974), Cowdery's **The Melodic Tradition of Ireland** (1990), Harker's **300 Tunes from Mike Rafferty** (2005), Mallinson's **100 Irish Polkas** (1997), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music** (1977) and **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, 2nd Edition** (2006), Mitchell's **Dance Music of Willie Clancy** (1993), Russell's **The Piper's Chair** (1989), Sullivan's **Session Tunes, vol. 3** and Tubridy's **Irish Traditional Music, Book Two** (1999).

It was recorded by Leo Rowsome on *Ri na bPiobairi* (1969), Chieftains on **Chieftains 4** (1974) Martin Byrnes on **Martin Byrnes** (1969), Mike McHale on **The Schoolmaster's House** (2000) and Aughrim Slopes Ceili Band.