

Beare Island Reel

The musical score for "Beare Island Reel" is presented in six staves. It is in the key of E Dorian (one sharp, F#) and 2/4 time. The first staff starts with a boxed 'A' above it. The second staff has a boxed 'B' above it. The third staff has a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above it. The fourth staff has a second ending bracket labeled '2.' above it. The fifth staff has a boxed 'B' above it. The score includes various chords (E, A, D, Em, B) and triplets. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Beare Island Reel", in Gaelic "*Ríl Bhéara*", also known as "Bear Island Reel", "Béara Reel" or "Bearhaven Lasses" is an Irish reel in E Dorian. The mode shifts between dorian and mixolydian and accompaniment chords can start on an E major. The parts are played AABB.

It was composed by West Cork accordionist Finbarr Dwyer (1946-2014), though it has sometimes been credited to Paddy Fahy (and is sometimes called "Paddy Fahy's").

The tune is named for Beara Island, which lies just off the coast of Castletownbere, at the very southwest tip of Ireland in County Cork. Dwyer's family comes from the Beare Island area of County Cork. The island itself takes its name from the O'Sullivan-Beara clan, ancient masters of that part of the country until the late 1600's, when they were routed in battle by the English.

It was printed in Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986) (appears as "Fahy's Reel") and Bancalafri's **Celtic Encyclopedia, Mandolin Edition** (1999).

It was recorded by Mick Conneely on **Selkie** (2001), Kevin Burke on **Portland** (1982), John & Phil Cunningham on **Against the Storm** (1980), Finbarr Dwyer on **Accordion Music From The Soul** (2008) and **Irish and Continental Accordion** (1971) and Silly Wizard on **Wild And Beautiful** (1990).