

The Bird in the Tree

Musical score for "The Bird in the Tree" in G Major, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' above the first measure. Chord symbols G, D7, G, Am, Em, G, and C are placed above the notes. The second staff has chords G, D7, C, G, D7, and G. The third staff has chords G, C, D7, G, D7, and G. The fourth staff has chords D7, G, D7, G, and a first ending bracket labeled '1.' with chords D7 and G. The fifth staff has a second ending bracket labeled '2.' with chords D7 and G.

"The Bird in the Tree", in Gaelic "*An tÉan ar an gCrann*", also known as "The Bird in the Bush" or "The Bird on the Tree" is an Irish reel in G Major. The parts are played AB (Breathnach, Moylan) or AABB (Brody, Miller & Perron, O'Malley).

It is a very popular Irish session reel that has gained currency in other genres, including American contra dance circles and Cape Breton sessions.

The tune was recorded on a 78 RPM by Michael Hanafin (1875-1970) under the title "Billy Hanafin's Reel" (Billy {1885-1924} was his brother and an associate of piper Patsy Tuohey's). Sligo fiddle great Michael Coleman popularized the melody through his influential 1924 78 RPM recording for Victor Records. It was first recorded in Cape Breton by musicians Johnny Wilmot and Tommy Basker.

It was printed in Breathnach's *Ceol Rince na hÉireann I* (1963), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Cranford's **Jerry Holland: The Second Collection** (2000), McNulty's **Dance Music of Ireland** (1965), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music** (1977) and **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, 2nd Edition** (2006), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary** (1994) and O'Malley's **Luke O'Malley's Collection of Irish Music, vol. 1** (1976).