

The Blackberry Blossom (2)

Musical staff A: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. The staff begins with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, D7, G, D7, Am, D7. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

Musical staff B: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. The staff begins with a repeat sign and a second ending bracket. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, D7, G, D7, Am, D7. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

Musical staff C: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, D7, G, D7, G, Am, D.S. al Fine, D7, C. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes.

Musical staff D: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), 4/4 time signature. The staff begins with the word "Fine" above the staff, followed by a chord G. The melody consists of a single quarter note G.

"The Blackberry Blossom (2)", in Gaelic "*Blat na smeur*", also known as "Maude Millar", "The Strawberry Beds" or "Strawberry Blossom" is an Irish, Canadian and American reel in 4/4 time and G Major (Harding, Kennedy, Kerr, O'Neill, Perlman, Sullivan) or E Flat Major (Stanford/Petrie). The parts are played AB (Miller, Perlman, Stanford/Petrie, Sullivan), AAB (Hardings, Kennedy, Kerr, O'Neill) or AA'B (Prior).

"The Magic Slipper" is a very similar tune. The American "Blackberry Blossom" is a very different tune.

The melody is familiar to Irish tradition, from at least the year 1850, if not earlier, according to Samuel Bayard (**Dance to the Fiddle**, 1981). There are mid-19th century music manuscripts of County Cork cleric and uilleann piper Canon James Goodman that contain "Blackberry Blossom". The title "Blackberry Blossom" appears in a list of tunes in his repertoire brought by Philip Goodman, the last professional and traditional piper in Farney, Louth, to the *Feis Ceoil* in Belfast in 1898 (Breathnach, 1997).

It was printed in Bayard's **Dance to the Fiddle** (1981), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Cotter's **Traditional Irish Tin Whistle Tutor** (1989), Giblin's **Collection of Traditional Irish Dance Music** (1928), Harding's **Original Collection** (1932), Elias Howe's **Musician's Omnibus Nos. 6 & 7** (1880-1882), Kennedy's **Fiddler's Tune-Book: Reels & Rants, Flings & Fancies** (1997), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1880) (as "The Strawberry Beds"), McDermott's **Allan's Irish Fiddler** (c. 1920's), Miller's **Fiddler's Throne** (2004), O'Connor's **The Rose in the Gap** (2018), Krassen's **O'Neill's Music of Ireland** (1976), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903) and **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (2007), Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996), Prior's **Fionn Seisiún 3** (2007), Robbins Music Corp's **The Robbins collection of 200 jigs, reels and country dances** (1933), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Stanford/Petrie's **Complete Collection** (1905) and Sullivan's **Session Tunes, vol. 3** (2000).

It was recorded by Todd Denman on **Like Magic** (1995) (as "Maude Millar's"), Buddy MacMaster on **Glencoe Hall** (1991), John J. Kimmel (appears as one of the tunes in the "Stack of Barley Medley") (78 RPM), Kevin Burke on **An Fhidil Straith II** (1980), Michael Cooney on **Happy to Meet, Sorry to Part** (1986), Mary Bergin on **Traditional Irish Music**, James Morrison on **The Pure Genius of James Morrison** (1978), Planxty on **The Well Below the Valley** (1973), Brian Conway on **First Through the Gate** (2002), Planxty on **After the Break** (1979), Seamus Tansey on **Jigs, Reels and Airs**, P.J. & Marcus Hernon on **Beal A' Mhurlaigh** (1989), Conal Ó Gráda on **The Top of Croom**, O'Aces on **From Night Til Morning**, Ben Lennon and Friends on **The Natural Bridge**, John O'Halloran on **But Why, Johnny?** (1999), Ceoltoiri Coleman on **The Killaville Sessions**, Mary Mac Namara on **The Blackberry Blossom**, Kevin Crawford on **The 'D' flute Album** and John J. Kimmell (1916) (2nd tune in medley) (78 RPM).