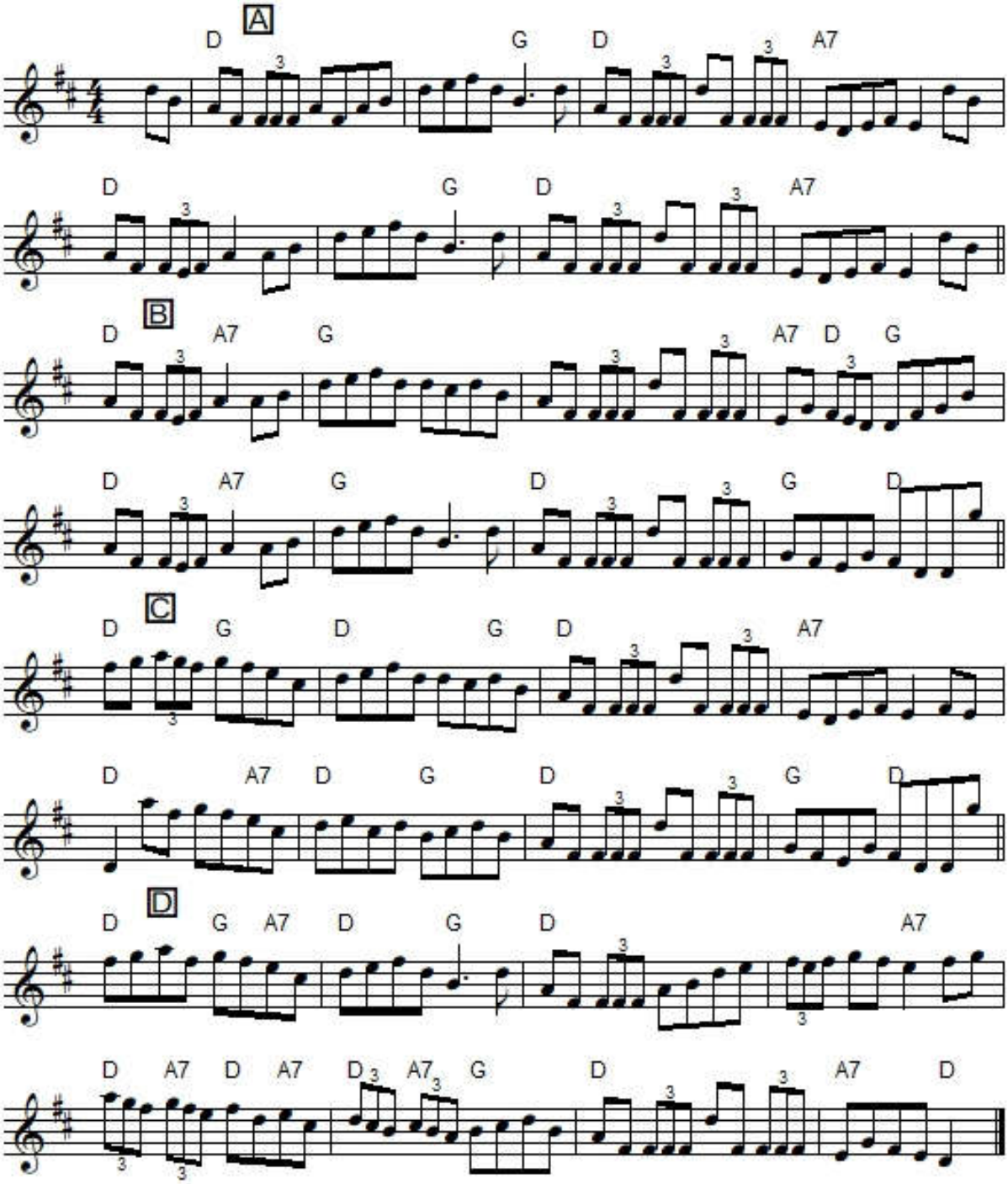
# The Boys of the Lough



"The Boys of the Lough" (in Gaelic "*Buachaillí na Locha*") also known as "Barrel Rafferty's Reel", "Jerome's Farewell to Gibraltar", "Johnstown Reel" and "Rose of Castletown" is an Irish reel in D Major. The parts are played AAB (Flaherty), AABB (Brody, Allan's), AABB' (Cranford/Holland) and ABCD (Breathnach).

It is a very popular session reel. "The Boys of the Lough" was popularized by fiddler Michael Coleman, originally from Kilavil, County Sligo, although the melody was "ever part of the local ...repertoire," according to Blooming Meadows (1998) authors Charlie Piggott and Fintan Vallely. Coleman (1891-1945) recorded the tune in 1922 in New York. O'Neill (in **400 Choice Selections**) printed the tune under the title "Johnstown Reel" while Frank Roche printed a version of the reel in 1912 as "Rose of Castletown" in his first volume of traditional Irish music. See also similarly titled but musically unrelated jig "The Boys from the Lough". "Barrel Rafferty's Reel"/"Master McDermott's Reel" is a related tune, as is the Canadian "Jerome's Farewell to Gibraltar," popularized under that title by radio and TV fiddler Don Messer.

It was printed in **Boys of the Lough** (1977), Breathnach's **CRÉ I** (1963), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Cranford's **Jerry Holland: The Second Collection** (2000), Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), Lyth's **Bowing Styles in Irish Fiddle Playing, vol. 1** (1981), McDermott's **Allan's Irish Fiddler** (1921), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, vol. 2** (1977) and Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, 2nd Edition** (2006)

It was recorded by Peter Horan on **The Mountain Road** (1999), Pake Spellman (d. 1969,) on **The Coleman Archive, vol. 2: The Home Place** (2005), Michael Coleman on **Musical Glory of Old Sligo** (1967), Ensemble Galelei on **Music in the Great Hall** (1992), Mike McHale on **The Schoolmaster's House** (2000), Jerry Holland on **Parlor Music** (2005), The Boys of the Lough on **First Album**, McConnell's Four Leaf Shamrock Orchestra (1924)(Adam McConnell - fiddle, John McNulty - piccolo and Joseph Dolan - piano).