

## Denis Murphy's Polka

Musical score for Denis Murphy's Polka, showing three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The score includes chord markings (D, G, A7) and section markers (A, B). The first staff (measures 1-6) is marked with a boxed 'A'. The second staff (measures 7-12) is marked with a boxed 'B'. The third staff (measures 13-18) contains the final measures of the piece. The score includes first and second endings for measures 10-11 and 16-17.

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"Denis Murphy's Polka" is also known as "The Boston", "Charley O'Leary's Favourite", "The Connemara", "Sweeney's", and "Teehan's".

Denis Murphy (1910-1974) was born to musical family in an area called *Sliabh Luachra*. It is a region at the intersection of three counties, Cork, Kerry, and Limerick; and it well-known for its identifiable musical style and for producing some of the great southern Irish players. Denis Murphy, born on the Kerry side is a fiddler known for a great pulsing rhythm and clear ornaments. He lived in the U.S. for a while, from the 1930's to around 1964 when he moved back to Ireland.

This polka may have been his composition or may be a tune that he played or taught without giving it a name that came to have his name attached to it (like Sarah Armstrong's Tune in the Legacies section - she called it simply "An old reel" and her name got attached to it).

It has been recorded by Planxty and several other Irish groups.