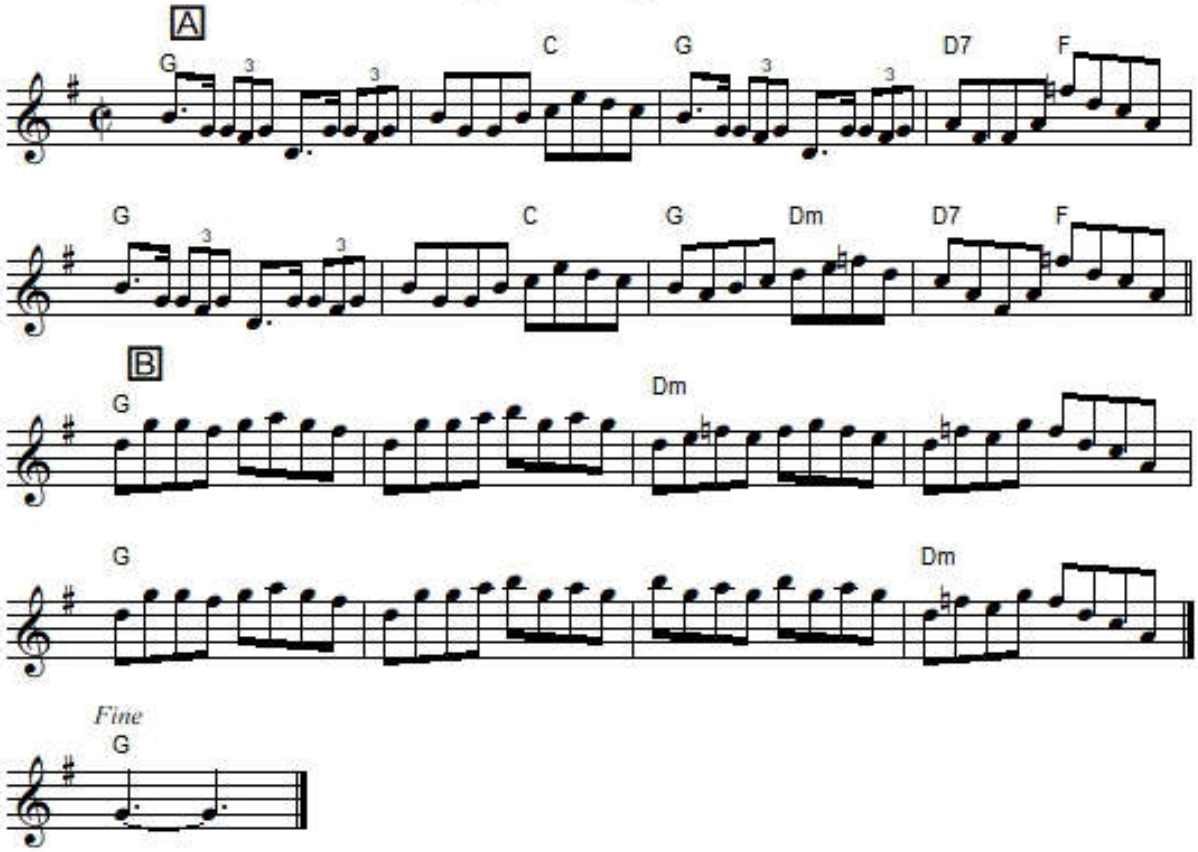
The Dogs Among the Bushes



"The Dogs Among the Bushes", in Gaelic "*Na madraide ameasg na tomaib*" or "*Na madri ameasg na dtom*", also known as "Athole Brose" or "Brandlings" is an Irish reel in E Mixolydian (O'Neill/Krassen), G Major/Mixolydian (O'Neill/1850 & 1001) or G Major (Flaherty, Mulvihill). The parts are played AB (Mulvihill, O'Neill/1850 & 1001), AABB (O'Neill/Krassen) or AA'BB' (Flaherty).

The tune is a close variant of the Scottish reel "Athole Brose" (and Neil Gow's "Brandlings"), also known as the strathspey "Buckingham House". In County Donegal the tune is played in the key of A Major (as in Scotland), unlike the rest of Ireland which plays it in G Major.

An early recording of the melody was by Frank O'Higgins (1891-1975), a fiddler from Glenamona, Kilskeer, County Meath, in Dublin in 1937 (who paired the tune with "The Merry Sisters" and "Kitty Gone a Milking", still a widely imitated medley.

The tune is circular (does not end on the tonic note) so I added a "*fine*" measure.

It was printed in Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), Krassen's **O'Neill's Music of Ireland** (1976), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903) and O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907).

It was recorded by The Chieftains on **The Best of the Chieftains** (1992), Solas on **The Hour Before Dawn** (2000) and Paddy Glackin & Robbie Hannan on **The Whirlwind** (1995).