

The Fisherman's Widow

The musical score for "The Fisherman's Widow" is presented in four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A, D, D. The second staff continues the melody with chord symbols D, D, B, A7. The third staff has a first ending bracket over the last two measures, with chord symbols D, A7, G. The fourth staff has a second ending bracket over the last two measures, with chord symbols D, G, D, A7, G, D. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

"The Fisherman's Widow", in Gaelic "*Baintreabac An Iasgair*", also known as "Baxter's Big", "The Friendly Neighbor", "The Rambling Pitchfork" or "St. Patrick's Day in the Evening" is an Irish double jig in D Major. The parts are played AABB (Mulvihill, O'Neill/Krassen & 1915), AABB' (O'Neill/1850 & 1001, Doyle). The tune usually goes by the title "The Rambling Pitchfork" today.

Francis O'Neill learned the tune from an accomplished West Clare flute player (and Chicago police patrolman) named Patrick "Big Pat" O'Mahony, a man of prodigious physique of whom he said: "the 'swing' of his execution was perfect, but instead of 'beating time' with his foot on the floor like most musicians he was never so much at ease as when seated in a chair tilted back against a wall, while both feet swung rhythmically like a double pendulum".

It was printed in Doyle's **Plain Brown Tune Book** (1997), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), O'Neill (Krassen) (1976), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903), O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907) and O'Neill's **O'Neill's Irish Music** (1915).

It was recorded by Seamus and Manus McGuire on **Humours of Lissadell**.