

# The Flogging Reel

**A**

1. G D7 G

4. D7 G D7 G

7. D7 G D7

11. G D7 G D7

**B**

15. G D7 G D7

**C**

18. D7 G

21. D7 G

24. 1. D7 2. D7 G

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"The Flogging Reel", in Gaelic "*An Seisd Buailteac*" or "*Ril na Lasctha*", also known as "The Floggin'", "The Flagon" or "The Flaggon" (Scottish), "Humors of Bantry Bay", "The Newry Lass" or "Slashing Reel" is an Irish reel in G Major. In some versions the 'C' part is in G Mixolydian.

The parts are played ABC (Breathnach, Cole, Mallinson, Mitchell), AABC (O'Neill/1915 & 1001, Taylor), AABCC (Allan's, Gow), AABBC (O'Neill/1850) or AABB'CC (O'Neill/Krassen).

As "The Flogging Reel" the tune is a popular reel in County Donegal. Breathnach (1976) says it is related to "The Fife Reel".

O'Neill (1913) mentions this tune in an anecdote about uilleann piper Patrick Ward, a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmer-piper of Blackbull, Drogheda. Ward was an accomplished fiddler before he picked up the pipes, but learned, as most did, by ear. His first lesson in writing music was not without difficulty; "having neither pen nor ink, he was told by his teacher, 'a dark man', to burn a furze stick and write with its calcined end. This expedient served fairly well. From that day to this he says that whenever he takes a pen in his hand to write music his mind reverts to "The Flogging Reel" which was the first tune set down in the manner mentioned". The reel was remembered by Kilmaley, County Clare, fiddler, flute player and uilleann piper Peadar O'Loughlin as one of the tunes he listened to his father, a flute player, play in the 1930's.

The title 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) and a standard notation transcription was included in the c. 1890's music manuscript collection of "Professor" Patrick D. Reidy, a dancing master resident in London who taught at Gaelic League functions. The tunes in Reidy's MS were collected from musicians who accompanied dancers at the time. The melody was also cited as having commonly been played for country dances in Orange County, New York, in the 1930's (under the title "Flogging Reel").

It was printed in Breathnach's **CRÉ II** (1976) ("*Ril an Lasctha*" {The Flogging Reel}), Breathnach's **The Man & his Music** (1996), Carlin's **The Gow Collection** (1986) (appears as "The Flaggon"), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), **The Dublin Magazine**, November, 1842, Giblin's **Collection of Traditional Irish Dance Music** (1928), P.M. Haverty's **One Hundred Irish Airs vol. 2** (1858), Mallinson's **100 Essential** (1995), McDermott's **Allan's Irish Fiddler**, Mitchell's **Dance Music of Willie Clancy** (1993), O'Neill's **O'Neill's Irish Music** (1915) (appears as "The Flogging Reel"), O'Neill (Krassen) (1976) (appears as "Flogging Reel"), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903) (appears as "Flogging Reel"), O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907) (appears as "The Flogging Reel"), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883) and Taylor's **Music for the Sets: Yellow Book** (1995).

It was recorded by John J. Kimmel (1916), Ciaran Tourish on **Down the Line** (2005), John J. "Dutch" Kimmel (accordion player from New York City) (1929), The Chieftains on **The Chieftains Live** (1977), Joe Cormier on **The Dances Down Home** (1977) (Appears as "The Flaggon"), Mick Coyne on **Both Sides of the Coyne**, Brendan Mulvihill, accompanied by Mick Moloney on **The Flax in Bloom, Traditional Irish Music**, Boys of the Lough on **Regrouped** and **The Session**, Cherish the Ladies on **Out and About** and many others.