

# The Gooseberry Bush

The musical score for "The Gooseberry Bush" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The score includes various chords and ornaments:

- Staff 1:** Chords D and Am7. Features a repeat sign and a fermata over the final note.
- Staff 2:** Chords G, D, G, D, Am7. Includes a triplet of eighth notes.
- Staff 3:** Chords E7, Am7, D. Features a first ending bracket over the final two measures.
- Staff 4:** Chords G, D, D, Am7. Includes a second ending bracket over the first two measures.
- Staff 5:** Chords D, Am7, G, Am7, D. Features a fermata over the final note.
- Staff 6:** Chords G, Am7, D. Includes a first ending bracket over the final two measures.
- Staff 7:** Chords Am7, D, D, A7. Features a fermata over the final note.
- Staff 8:** Chords G, D, G. Includes a triplet of eighth notes.
- Staff 9:** Chords Am7, G. Features a fermata over the final note.
- Staff 10:** Chords Am7, D. Includes a second ending bracket over the first two measures.

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"The Gooseberry Bush" in Gaelic "*An Spionán*" or "*An Tor Spionán*" is an Irish reel in D Major (O'Neill), D Mixolydian (Breathnach) or D Major/Mixolydian (Harker/Rafferty, Valley). The parts are played ABC (O'Neill), AABBC (Breathnach) or AABBC (Harker/Rafferty, Valley). A gooseberry bush is a spiny Eurasian bush that has greenish purple-tinged flowers and yields berries that are yellow-green or red-purple in color. The name stems from the association of the berries which were once used to make a sauce for cooking a goose, but the thorns on the plant also resemble a goose's foot. 'Gooseberry Bush' has been used as a euphemism for female pubic hair and genitalia and indeed, countless children were informed in past times that babies were found 'under a gooseberry bush'. This usage may have derived from the French for gooseberry, *groseille a marquerea*. *Marquereau* is the word for pimp, while *une femme gross* is the term given to a pregnant woman.

It was printed in Breathnach's **CRÉ II** (1976), Harker's **300 Tunes from Mike Rafferty** (2005), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903), **Treoir, vol. 2** (1988) and Valley's **Armagh Pipers Club Play 50 Reels** (1982).

It was recorded by Paddy Glackin on **In Full Spate** (1991), Matt Molloy & Seane Keane on **Contentment is Wealth** (1985) Mick Moloney on **Strings Attached** and Mary Rafferty on **Hand Me Downs** (2002).