

Hawk of Ballyshannon, The

A

Musical notation for section A, measures 1-4. The music is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of treble clef notation. The melody is primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some quarter notes. The first staff begins with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note, then continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff continues the eighth and sixteenth note patterns. The third staff features a quarter note followed by eighth notes. The fourth staff concludes with a quarter note and a final sixteenth-note flourish.

B

Musical notation for section B, measures 5-8. The music is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of treble clef notation. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The fifth staff starts with a quarter note followed by eighth notes. The sixth staff includes a triplet of eighth notes. The seventh staff continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The eighth staff concludes with a quarter note and a final sixteenth-note flourish.

The Hawk of Ballyshannon, also known as "Port Athol", "The Hawk of Lough Erne" (in Gaelic, *Seabhac na hEirne*), "Miss Moore", "O'Moore's Daughter", "O'Moore's Fair Daughter", or "Katherine O'More" is an Irish slow air in 4/4 time and A Minor. Joyce (1909) says "The Hawk of Ballyshannon" was a well-known air which was also known as "O'Moore's Fair Daughter", according to his source, and by others as "Miss Moore." He notes that the Irish collector William Forde gives half a dozen settings, including that of Bunting, but that O'Beirne's version (which he prints) is more simple and flowing and less interrupted by instrumental ornamentations than Bunting's (1840).

Bunting and Joyce both state the air was composed by the great Ulster harper Ruaidhrí Dall Ó Catháin (Rory Dall O'Cahan; possibly born c. 1580 Co. Antrim – possibly died 1653 at Eglinton Castle) which he called "Port Athol" and was somewhat varied by O'Carolan. Bunting (1840) notes: "It was uniformly attributed to its proper composer by the harpers at Belfast".

Unlike the vast number of travelling musicians, he was a gentleman by birth, his family being hereditary allies of the O'Neill dynasty. Their territory was Keenaght (barony), now part of County Londonderry in Northern Ireland. Reflecting his origins, Ó Catháin "traveled into Scotland attended by the retinue of a gentle man of large property". Rory Dall O'Cahan also composed "Give Me Your Hand" which is also in this section.

Caoimhin Mac Aoidh (1994) states that "The Hawk of Ballyshannon" is a title that cryptically refers to the Fermanagh Chieftain Philip MaGuire.

It was printed in Bunting's **Ancient Music of Ireland** (1840), Joyce's **Old Irish Folk Music and Songs: The Forde Collection** (1909), O'Sullivan/Bunting, 1983.

It was recorded by Ann Heymann which is where I learned it.