

## The Humours of Ballyconnell

"The Humours of Ballyconnell", in Gaelic "*Sugra Baile-Ata-Conaill*" or "*Pléaráca Bhaile uí Chonaill*", also known as "Humors of Ballyconnelly", "Aldridge's Rant", "Captain Rock", "A Highland Reel", "McNeil's Maggot", "Now is the Time Reel" and "O'Neill's Maggot" is an Irish reel in 4/4 time and D Major. The parts are played ABC (Mulvihill), ABB'CC' (Moylan, Prior), AABBC (Boys of the Lough, Brody, Goodman, Kerr, Mallinson), AA'BB'CC' (Harker/Rafferty).

The tune, titled "Humours of Bally Connell", first appears in the large mid-19<sup>th</sup> century music manuscript collection of County Cork cleric and uilleann piper Canon James Goodman. The tune is popularly known nowadays under the "Ballyconnell" title, which was only a local Fermanagh name for the tune more commonly known as "Captain Rock's" according to the Boys of the Lough.

The tune was first recorded on a Columbia 78 RPM (No. 33068) in New York in 1925 by renowned County Sligo fiddler Michael Coleman in a duet with flute player Tom Morrison. It was printed in Brody's *Fiddler's Fakebook* (1983), Bulmer & Sharpley's *Music from Ireland, vol. 1* (1974), Harker's *300 Tunes from Mike Rafferty* (2005), Kerr's *Merry Melodies, vol. 4* (c. 1880's), Mallinson's *100 Essential* (1995), Moylan's *Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra* (1994), Mulvihill's *1st Collection* (1986), Prior's *Foinn Seisiún 2* (2003) and *Treoir*, vol. 37, No. 3 (2005).

It was recorded by Michael Coleman & Tom Morrison (1925), Tulla Ceili Band on *Dance Tunes* (1990), Paddy Keenan on *Paddy Keenan* (1975), Craob Rua on *The More That's Said the Less the Better* (1992), Boys of the Lough on *Piper's Broken Finger* (1976) and Arcady on *Many Happy Returns* (1995).