

The Irish Hautboy

"The Irish Hautboy", in Gaelic "*An Fíoeog Éirinneac*", also known as "The Hautboy" or "The Irish Hoboy" is an Irish Air in 4/4 time and G Major (most versions) or D Major (Howe). The parts are played AAB.

It is similar to "Lisdoonvarna Reel", "Mary Donlevy", "The Smuggler's Reel" and "*Tadhg a Rúin*". It is from the latter 18th century, at least.

A hautboy (or 'hoboy') is an oboe, but it is possible the title refers to the uilleann pipes, another double-reed instrument. A simplified form of the melody is contained in the Joseph Kershaw manuscript. Kershaw was a fiddler who lived in Slackcote, Saddleworth, North West England, in the 19th century and his manuscript dates from around 1820.

The tune appears to have been first published in London by Longman, Lukey and Broderip in **Bride's Favourite Collection of 200 Select Country Dances, Cotillons** (1776).

It appears in a few other period publications and in several musicians' manuscript collections on both sides of the Atlantic, including London musician Thomas Hammersley's c. 1790 copybook, the c. 1792 Scottish John Carter copybook, American fluter Henry Beck's manuscript (1786) and Shelburne, Nova Scotia, flute player (Ensign) Thomas Molyneaux's collection of 1788, among others.

It was printed in Aird's **Selections of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs, vol. 1** (1782), John Hall's **A Selection of Strathspeys Reels, Waltzes & Irish Jigs** (c. 1818), Elias Howe's **Musician's Omnibus Nos. 6 & 7** (1880-1882), Joyce's **Old Irish Folk Music and Songs** (1909), Knowles' **The Joseph Kershaw Manuscript** (1993), John Offord's **Bonny Cumberland** (2018) (as "The Hautboy"), Petrie-Stanford's **Complete Collection** (1903-06) (appears as "Mary Donlevy"), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903) and Samuel, Anne & Peter Thompson's **The Hibernian Muse** (1787).