

The Job of Journeywork

The musical score for "The Job of Journeywork" is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music, each with a measure number on the left. The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, stems, beams, and slurs. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A, G, D, A7, and B. Measure numbers 4, 7, 10, 13, 17, and 20 are indicated. There are first and second endings marked with "1." and "2." above the staff lines. Trills are indicated with a "2" above a note. Triplets are marked with a "3" above a group of notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the final measure.

"The Job of Journey Work", in Gaelic "*Greim/Mir Obair*" or "**Obair an Aistir**", also known as "Stone Grinds All" is an Irish and Scottish set dance (cut time or 4/4) in D Mixolydian (Roche) or D Major (Goodman, O'Neill) or D Major/Mixolydian (Cranitch, Joyce, Mulvihill, Stanford/Petrie).

The parts are played AB (Standord/Petrie), AABB (Cranitch, Goodman, Joyce, Mulvihill, O'Neill, Roche).

Francis O'Neill (1922) said this set-dance tune was derived from a song air. Samuel Bayard (1954) published a study of a tune family he called "The Job of Journeywork".

The second strain of the melody has been the one which has spawned the most variants, one of many of the "standard building blocks" (Ó Canainn, 1978) of the Irish melodic tradition. Joyce (1890) states the tune was "a great favorite" in some of the Munster counties twenty or thirty years before he first published his volume in 1873.

The first printed appearance of the tune appears to be in Glasgow musician and publisher James Aird's **Selection of Scotch, English Irish and Foreign Airs, vol. 3** (Glasgow, 1788).

It is perhaps based on an older air called "My Wife She's Ta'en the Gee" (not to be confused with Nathaniel Gow's different air of the same name).

The set dance is contained in vol. 2 (p. 155) of the large mid-19th century music manuscript collection of County Cork cleric and uilleann piper James Goodman. The great East Clare fiddle stylist Paddy Canny's recording of the tune has been called the standard for modern settings and was used as the theme for the radio program of the same name in Ireland.

There are melodic similarities to the old-time standard "Over the Waterfall" but not enough to establish a definitive connection between the two.

In Irish tradition "Job of Journeywork" is one of the five tunes called the Traditional Sets (i.e. set dances), along with "St. Patrick's Day", "The Blackbird", "The Garden of Daisies" and "King of the Fairies".

It was printed in Howe's **1000 Jigs and Reels** (c.1867), Joyce's **Ancient Irish Music** (1890), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903), Stanford/Petrie's **Complete Collection** (1905), O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907), O'Neill's **O'Neill's Irish Music** (1915), Hardebeck's **Collection of Jigs and Reels, vol. 2** (1921)(as "The Journeyman's Job of Work"), Roche's **Collection of Traditional Irish Music, vol. 2** (1927), Reavy's **The Music of Corktown** (1979), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), Cotter's **Traditional Irish Tin Whistle Tutor** (1989) and Cranitch's **The Irish Fiddle Book** (1996).

It was recorded by The Chieftains on **The Best of the Chieftains** (1992), Paddy Keenan on **Paddy Keenan** (1975), Michael Coleman and many others.