

The Joys of Wedlock

The musical score for "The Joys of Wedlock" is presented in five staves. The first staff, labeled 'A', begins with a repeat sign and contains the first part of the tune. The second staff continues this part and concludes with a double bar line. The third staff, labeled 'B', also begins with a repeat sign and contains the second part of the tune. The fourth staff continues this part and ends with a double bar line. The fifth staff provides two alternative endings for the second part, both starting with a G chord. Chord symbols (G, D7, D, Em, G) are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic structure. The piece is in G Major and 6/8 time.

"The Joys of Wedlock", also known as "The Fireman's Jig" or "The New Married Couple" is an Irish, Canadian and American double jig in 6/8 time and G Major. The parts are played AABB. "The Joys of Wedlock" was learned by Irish collector P.W. Joyce as a child in Co. Limerick during the 1840's. However, around the same time it was entered in the music manuscript collection of Manchester, England, musician John Roose as "The Fireman's Jig". Another early Irish version of the tune can be found in Church of Ireland uilleann piper and cleric James Goodman's mid-19th century music manuscripts. Goodman (1828-1896) was a musician, collector and an Irish speaker who sought tunes locally in County Cork and elsewhere in Munster. He also obtained tunes from manuscripts and printed collections and Goodman's setting is nearly identical to Joyce's. Early 20th century compiler Francis O'Neill printed the tune as "The New Married Couple".

It was printed in Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), Joyce's **Old Irish Folk Music and Song** (1909), Messer's **Way Down East** (1948) and **Anthology of Favorite Fiddle Tunes** (1980), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddlers Repertoire** (1983), Perlman's **The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island** (1996), Robbins Music Corp's **The Robbins collection of 200 jigs, reels and country dances** (1933), Roche's **Collection of Traditional Irish Music, vol. 1** (1912), Shields/Goodman's **Tunes of the Munster Pipers** (1998) and Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964/1981).