

The Kilkenny Races

The musical score for "The Kilkenny Races" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above it. The second staff is numbered '4' at the beginning. The third staff is numbered '7' and contains two first endings, labeled '1.' and '2.', with a boxed letter 'B' above the second ending. The fourth staff is numbered '11' and contains a first ending labeled '1.'. The fifth staff is numbered '15' and contains a second ending labeled '2.'. The sixth staff is numbered '18'. The seventh staff is numbered '22' and contains a boxed letter 'C' above it. The eighth staff is numbered '26' and contains two first endings, labeled '1.' and '2.'. The ninth staff is a short musical phrase, likely the end of the piece.

"The Kilkenny Races" is an Irish set dance.

The title may refer to horse races at Gowran Park near Kilkenny, Ireland which was established in 1914. Kilkenny is about half way between Dublin and Wexford. Kilkenny takes its name from Saint Kenneth, a companion of St. Columba.

The challenging part of this tune is reaching the high D in the B part which requires a jump to third position on the fiddle. Since the following descending sequence proceeds in quarter notes the progresses from d to a to b to g gives two opportunities to shift back to first position.

It was printed in Joyce's **Old Irish Folk Music and Song** (1909) and McNulty's **Dance Music of Ireland** (1965).

It was recorded by Sean McGuire, Sean Ryan and Mick Maloney.

I learned from Mick Maloney's recording with Eugene O'Donnell.