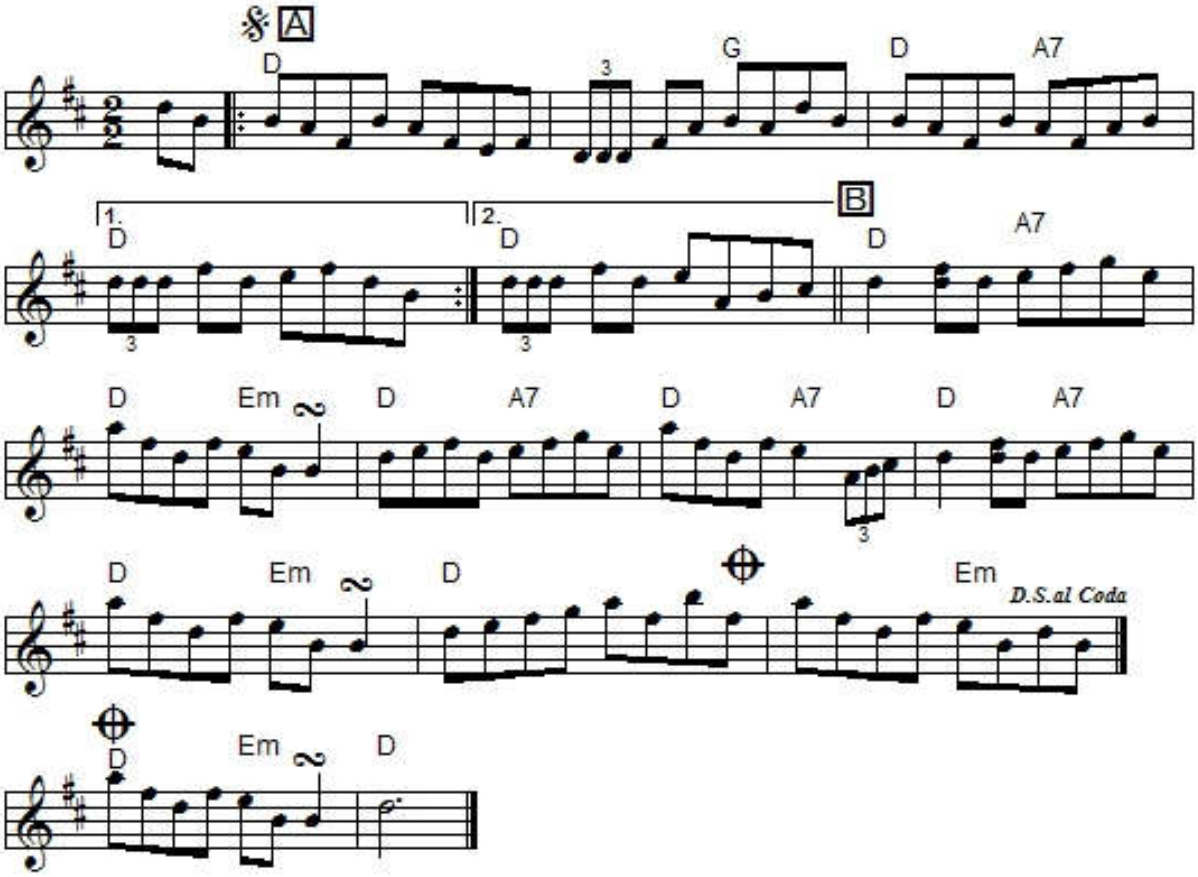
The Lady on the Island



"The Lady on the Island", in Gaelic "*An Bhean Uasal ar an Oileán*", also known as "The Lady of the Island" is an Irish reel in D Major. The parts are played AB (Breathnach, Flaherty, Miller & Perron, Mulvihill, Tubridy) or AAB (Brody, O'Neill, Taylor).

Ciaran Carson, in his book **Last Night's Fun** (1996) comments:

> 'The Lady' is very rarely used as a first tune, because it's so handy for going into from another tune, or for tacking on to the end of a set if you can think of nothing else. It's a kind of floating tune which gets promiscuously attached to other tunes; come to think of it, it's a variant of 'Rolling on the Ryegrass'".

It has been suggested, without any evidence whatsoever, that the title refers to the Statue of Liberty, in New York Harbor, built in 1884.

It was printed in Breathnach's **CRÉ I** (1963), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music** (1977), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music 2nd Edition** (2006), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), O'Neill's **O'Neill's Irish Music** (1915), Taylor's **Crossroads Dance** (1992) and Tubridy's **Irish Traditional Music, vol. 1** (1999).

It was recorded by Dermy Diamond, Tara Diamond, Dáithí Sproule on **Seanchairde/Old Friends** (2009), Dick Brennan & Tommy Hunt on **The Coleman Archive, vol. 2: The Home Place** (2003), Joe Heaney (with Gabe O'Sullivan) on **Joe & the Gabe**, Chieftains on **Chieftains 3** (1971), Mary Bergin on **Feadoga Stain/Traditional Irish Music**, Planxty on **After the Break**, Kilfenora Ceili Band on **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music**, Shaskeen on **My Love is in America**, Dale Russ on **Jody's Heaven** and Paddy O'Brien (Co. Offaly) on **The Paddy O'Brien Collection**.