

## The Longford Collector

The image displays a musical score for the Irish reel "The Longford Collector" in G Major. The score is organized into two sections, A and B, each consisting of three staves of music. Section A begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The first staff of section A starts with a repeat sign and a box labeled 'A' above the first measure. Chords G, C, and G are indicated above the first three measures. The second staff of section A has chords D7, C, G, C, and D7 above it. The third staff of section A includes a first ending (marked '1') with chords D7, C, and D7, and a second ending (marked '2') with chords D7 and G. Section B follows a similar structure. Its first staff starts with a repeat sign and a box labeled 'B' above the first measure, with chords G, C, D7, and G above it. The second staff of section B has chords D7, G, C, and D7 above it. The third staff of section B includes a first ending (marked '1') with chords D7 and G, and a second ending (marked '2') with chords D7 and G. The score concludes with a double bar line.

"The Longford Collector", in Gaelic "*Bailitheoir Longphoirt*", also known as "The Bonny Boy", "Lady Clare Quick Step", "The Longford Beggarwoman" or "The Longford Maid" is an Irish reel in G Major. The parts are played AB (Breathnach, Mulvihill), AAB (Sullivan) or AA'BB' (Harker/Rafferty, Mallinson, Moylan, Tubridy).

"The Longford Collector" is the second tune of a famous and much imitated Michael Coleman medley that includes "Tarbolton Reel" and "The Sailor's Bonnet".

Barry O'Neill, in his notes for the LP **Wheels of the World**, states that the title was known to County Sligo/New York City fiddler Michael Coleman as "The Longford Beggarwoman". The story goes that Coleman was playing the tune in a taproom and after he finished someone asked him the name, which he gave as "Longford Beggarwoman". Immediately, a plate sailed across the room and crashed on the wall near his head, followed by an irate woman shouting something to the effect that she was from Longford and they weren't beggars there. Another version has her saying 'there were more beggarwomen in Sligo than ever was in Longford'. Very soon afterward Coleman entered the studio to record his famous Tarboton Set ("Tarbolton Reel", "The Longford Collector" and "The Sailor's Bonnet") at which time he made the name change.

It was printed in Breathnach's **CRÉ I** (1963), Cotter's **Traditional Irish Tin Whistle Tutor** (1989), Harker's **300 Tunes from Mike Rafferty** (2005), Lyth's **Bowing Styles in Irish Fiddle Playing, vol. 1** (1981), Mallinson's **100 Essential** (1995), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra** (1994), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), Sullivan's **Session Tunes, vol. 2**, Taylor's **Through the Half-door** (1992) and Tubridy's **Irish Traditional Music, vol. 1** (1999).

It was recorded by Paddy Keenan on **Paddy Keenan** (1975), Frank Ferrel & Joe Derrane on **Fiddledance** (2004), Martin Byrnes, Jean Carignan, Shaskeen on **Shaskeen Live**, Paddy Cronin on **The House in the Glen**.