

The Merry Blacksmith

The musical score for "The Merry Blacksmith" is presented in five staves. The first staff starts with a boxed 'A' above a 'D' chord. The second staff has a boxed 'A' above an 'A7' chord. The third staff has a boxed 'B' above a 'D' chord. The fourth staff has 'A7' above the first measure and 'D' above the second measure. The fifth staff has '1. D' above the first measure and '2. D' above the second measure. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

"The Merry Blacksmith", in Gaelic "An Gaba Meadrac" or "An Gabha Meidhreach", also known as "The Black Water Thame" or "The Peeler's Cap" is an Irish or English reel in D Major. The parts are played AB (O'Neill/1850 & 1001), AA'B (O'Neill/Krassen), AABB (Allan's, Kennedy, Martin & Hughes, Raven, Tubridy) or ABCD (Breathnach).

It is part of a family of reels that are well known in Ireland, the British Isles and North America. The tune and related variations appeared in a number of 19th century manuscripts under various names: "Boy in the Gap", "The Peeler's Cap", "North Wall", "The Railroad" and "The Police Jacket".

"The Devil's in Dublin" is a related tune.

In America the tune is known as "Eminence Breakdown".

It was printed in Breathnach's *Ceol Rince na hÉireann III* (1985), Giblin's *Collection of Traditional Irish Dance Music* (1928), Joyce's *Old Irish Folk Music and Songs* (1909) (as "Boys of the Lake"), Kennedy's *Fiddler's Tune-Book, vol. 1* (1951), Martin & Hughes' *Ho-ro-gheallaidh* (1990), McDermott's *Allan's Irish Fiddler* (c. 1920's), O'Brien's *Jerry O'Brien's Accordion Instructor* (1949), Krassen's *O'Neill's Music of Ireland* (1976), O'Neill's *Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems* (1907), O'Neill's *Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies* (1903), Raven's *English Country Dance Tunes* (1984), Tubridy's *Irish Traditional Music, Book Two* (1999). It was recorded by Tom Ennis & John Gerrity (1922) and Seamus Ennis on *Forty Years of Irish Piping* (1977).