

The Merry Sisters

The musical score for "The Merry Sisters" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of two main sections, A and B, with various musical notations and chord changes.

Section A: This section begins with a repeat sign and a box labeled 'A'. The first staff contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, with chords A, Em7, D, A, Em7, and Em7, D. The second staff continues with notes E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, with chords Em7, A, Em7, A, and Em7. The third staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords A, Em7, A, Em7, A, and Em7. The fourth staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords A and Em7. The fifth staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords A, Em7, A, and Em7. The sixth staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords G, Em7, A, and G. The seventh staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords D, Em7, and A. The piece concludes with a final chord of A.

Section B: This section begins with a box labeled 'B'. The first staff contains notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, with chords A, Em7, D, A, Em7, and Em7, D. The second staff continues with notes E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, with chords Em7, A, Em7, A, and Em7. The third staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords A, Em7, A, Em7, A, and Em7. The fourth staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords A and Em7. The fifth staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords A, Em7, A, and Em7. The sixth staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords G, Em7, A, and G. The seventh staff contains notes G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, with chords D, Em7, and A. The piece concludes with a final chord of A.

"The Merry Sisters", in Gaelic "*Na Deirbsiuiraca Sugaca*", also known as "Cross Road", "Margret O'Donnell's", "The Miltown Maid" or "Mill Town Maid" is an Irish reel, from Counties Sligo and Donegal in A Dorian (Brody) or E Dorian (Flaherty, O'Neill). The parts are played AABC (Brody), AA'BC (Flaherty), AA'BC (O'Neill/1001) or AA'BCC' (O'Neill/Krassen).

An early recording of the melody was by Frank O'Higgins (1891-1975), a fiddler from Glenamona, Kilskeer, County Meath, in Dublin in 1937 who paired it with "The Dogs Among the Bushes" and "Kitty Gone a Milking".

Paddy Ryan, writing in *Treoir*, says O'Higgins "was a highly esteemed figure in traditional music circles in and around Dublin. He also taught the fiddle for many years and, among his star pupils was Larry Redican, who was prominent in New York traditional music circles during his lifetime there." The reel was also in the repertoire of uilleann piper Séamus Ennis, who also may have learned it from O'Higgins, as his father, James Ennies played with O'Higgins in The Fingal Trio. It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), O'Neill (Krassen) (1976), O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907), Peoples' **Fifty Irish Fiddle Tunes** (1986), **Treoir**, vol. 36, No. 1 (2004), Valley's **Play Tin Whistle with the Armagh Pipers Club**, vol. 2.

It was recorded by Chieftains on **Chieftains 3** (1971/1982), Matt Molloy on **Shadows on Stone**, Tommy Peoples on **The Iron Man**.