

The Oak Tree

The musical score for "The Oak Tree" is written in D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The key signature is D major, and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various chords and ornaments.

Staff 1: Chord **A** (D major), D, A7, 2.

Staff 2: D.

Staff 3: A7, 1. D, 2. D.

Staff 4: **B** (Bm), 3, 2, D, A7, 2, A7, 2.

Staff 5: G, A7, Bm, 2, D, A7, D, A7, 2.

Staff 6: 1. D, A7, D, A7, 2. D, A7, D, A7, **C** (D), 2.

Staff 7: A7, 2, D, 2, G, D.

Staff 8: A7, D, A7, D, G, A7, D, 3.

"The Oak Tree", in Gaelic "*An crann darach*" or "*Na Saighean*", also known as "Mary Hold the Candle Steady While I Shave the Chicken Lip", "Northern Lights", "The Old Oak Tree", "Old Simon's Hornpipe" or "Tommy Peoples Reel" is an Irish reel from County Donegal in D Major ('A' and 'C' parts), B Dorian ('B' part).

The parts are played AB (Breathnach), AABBC (Brody) or ABBC (Breathnach).

It is a popular reel in County Donegal. Caoimhin Mac Aoidh (1994) lists this as one of the Donegal tunes played with long bowed double stops, reminiscent of piping. A close County Tyrone variation is "The Grand Turk's March" while the Scots strathspey "Miss Montgomery" is quite similar to the version played by Donegal fiddler John Doherty.

It was printed in Breathnach's **CRÉ II** (1976), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983) and Bulmer & Sharpley's **Music from Ireland vol. 1** (1974).

It was recorded by Tommy Peoples, John Doherty on **The Floating Bow** (1996), Boys of the Lough on **Live**, Tommy Peoples and Paul Brady on **The High Part of the Road** (1976) and Frankie Gavin on **Frankie Goes to Town**.