

## The Old Donegal Mazurka

The musical score for "The Old Donegal Mazurka" is presented in five staves. The key signature is G Major (one sharp) and the time signature is 3/4. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above it and contains a repeat sign. Above the first staff are chord symbols G, C, and G. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated with a '3' below it. The second staff has a first ending bracket labeled '1. G' above it. The third staff has a boxed letter 'B' above it and contains a repeat sign. Above the third staff are chord symbols C, G, and C. The fourth staff has a second ending bracket labeled '2. G' above it. Above the fourth staff are chord symbols G, C, G, and D7. The fifth staff has a first ending bracket labeled '1. G' and a second ending bracket labeled '2. G' above it.

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"The Old Donegal Mazurka", also known as "Charlie Lennon's Mazurka", "Francie Mooney's Mazurka" or "The Irish Mazurka" is an Irish mazurka from County Donegal in G Major. The parts are played AABB (Carlin), AA'BB' (Phillips).

Mazurkas constitute a distinctive part of the traditional dance music of County Donegal. The Polish dance entered the UK in the 1840s but is not widely played outside of Donegal.

This melody was recorded in May, 1937, in New York on a 78 RPM disc by Donegal fiddler Hugh Gillespie (1906–1986). It was Gillespie's first recording session (although he had been in the United States since 1928) and he was accompanied by a guitarist named Mark Callahan for the session since he preferred the guitar to the usual piano accompaniment of the era's Irish recordings. He was in demand as a sideman, played duets with Michael Coleman on the radio and sometimes joined Packie Dolan's band as well as his cousin, Jim Gillespie's, group. Jim Gillespie was an accordion player and the band played regularly in a bar in a Polish neighborhood, where the audience liked to hear mazurkas.

A variant of "The Old Donegal Mazurka" is the well-known "Sonny's Mazurka".

It was printed in Carlin's **Master Collection of Dance Music for the Violin** (1984) and Phillips' **Fiddle Case Tunebook: British Isles** (1989).

It was recorded by John Doherty and Hugh Gillespie on **Classic Recordings of Irish Traditional Fiddle Music** (1992 reissue recording).