

The Rambling Pitchfork

The musical score for "The Rambling Pitchfork" is written in 6/8 time and consists of two main sections, A and B. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Section A: This section begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first ending (marked "1.") spans the final two measures of the section, which end with a repeat sign. The chords for this section are Dm, Gm, Dm, and Am7.

Section B: This section also begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. It features a second ending (marked "2.") that leads back to the beginning of Section B. The first ending (marked "1.") spans the final two measures of the section. The chords for this section are Dm, A, Dm, A, Dm, Am7, Dm, A, Dm, and G.

The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplets, as well as first and second endings.

"The Rambling Pitchfork", in Gaelic ("*Ab Gabhal siúlach*" or "*An Píce Fánach*"), also known as "Baxter's Big", "Fisherman's Jig", "The Fisherman's Widow", "The Friendly Neighbor", "Guertin Boys", "Roland's Return", "St. Patrick's Day in the Evening" or "Wedding Trip" is an Irish double jig in 6/8 time and D Minor (Goodman, Levey), D Major (most versions) or G Major (Kerr). The parts are played AAB (Kerr), AABB (Cranitch, Levey, Mallinson, Taylor/Tweed), AAB B' (Allens) or AA'BB' (Alewine).

The title "Rambling Pitchfork" refers to an itinerant farm laborer.

The jig appears in the mid-19th century music manuscript collection of County Cork uilleann piper and Church of Ireland cleric James Goodman, set in the key of D minor and was nearly identically reproduced under the title "Roland's Return" in Frank Roche's **Collection of Traditional Irish Music, vol. 1** (1912).

The tune was paired with "The Sporting Pitchfork" on the 1978 Paddy Glackin/Paddy Keenan album **Dublin'**, the medley being known as "The Pitchforks".

It was printed in Alewine's **Maid that Cut Off the Chicken's Lips** (1987), Cranitch's **Irish Fiddle Book** (1996), Giblin's **Collection of Traditional Irish Dance Music** (1928), Kerr's **Merry Melodies, vol. 1** (c. 1880), R.M. Levey's **First Collection of the Dance Music of Ireland** (1858), Mallinson's **100 Enduring** (1995), McDermott's **Allan's Irish Fiddler** (c. 1920's), Songer's **Portland Collection, vol. 2** (2005) and Taylor's **Traditional Irish Music: Karen Tweed's Irish Choice** (1994).

It was recorded by James Kelly on **Traditional Irish Music** (1996), Tom Ennis & James Morrison (1922), Paddy Killoran (1937) (as "Guertin Boys"), Michael Coleman on **Stack of Barley & Wheat**, Paddy Keenan on **Paddy Keenan** (1975), Rodney Miller on **Rodney Miller's Airdance** (2000), Matt Molloy, Sean Keane & Tommy Peoples on **Molloy, Keane & Peoples**, Paddy Glackin & Robbie Hannan on **The Whirlwind** (1995), Paddy Glackin & Paddy Keenan on **Dublin'** (1978), Mary Custy on **After 10:30**, Ballinakill Traditional Dance Players on **Irish Dance Music** (1995) (reissue of the 1931 original), Michael Coleman on **Michael Coleman 1891-1945** (1992. Reissue recordings) and Michael Coleman (1921) (78 RPM).