

The Red Haired Boy

The image shows a musical score for the fiddle tune "The Red Haired Boy". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score is divided into five systems, each with a measure number (1, 5, 9, 12, 16) at the beginning. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: A, D, A, G, A, D, A, G, A, D. There are two boxed sections, A and B. Section A is a square box around the first measure. Section B is a square box around the 10th measure. There are first and second endings marked with "1." and "2." above the staff. The first ending is a repeat sign with a first ending bracket. The second ending is a repeat sign with a second ending bracket. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

"The Red Haired Boy", in Gaelic "*Gilleruadh*" or "*Giolla Ruadh*", the same title that results in another tune with the Englished title "Guilderoy". "Guilderoy" is usually set in A minor and this tune is usually set in A mixolydian. It is used for the song "The Little Beggarman".

The tune is an Irish, Scottish or English air or hornpipe. It is also known in the US and Canada as a reel or breakdown.

It was printed in Bégin's **Fiddle Music in the Ottawa Valley** (1985), Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1973), Messer's **Anthology of Favorite Fiddle Tunes** (1980), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddler's Repertoire** (1983), Mitchell's **Dance Music of Willie Clancy** (1983), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra** (1994), O'Neill's **O'Neill's Irish Music** (1915), O'Neill (**Krassen**) (1976), O'Neill **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903), O'Neill **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol. 1** (1994), Silberberg's **Fiddle Tunes I Learned at the Tractor Tavern** (2002), Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980) and Sweet's **Fifer's Delight** (1964).

I play this tune in medleys with:

Guilderoy

In the Celtic section or

The Mason's Apron

The Rights of Man

in this section.

I most often play it with "Guilderoy" as the two red haired boys go well together and the change of mode makes an interesting set.