

The Red Haired Lass

The musical score is written in G Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first staff is marked with a boxed 'A' and contains the first measure of the first system. The second staff continues the first system. The third staff is marked with a boxed 'B' and contains the first measure of the second system. The fourth staff continues the second system and ends with 'D.C. al Fine'. The fifth staff is a single measure marked 'Fine'.

"The Red-Haired Lass", also known as "The Crusheen", "Jim Seery's", "The Kildoney Lasses", "Peter Kennedy's Fancy", "Pigeon on the Gate" or "Shearing the Sheep" is an Irish reel in G Major (Cranitch, Flaherty, Moylan, Mulvihill, Taylor) or A Major (Cranitch). The parts are played AB (Cranitch, Flaherty, Moylan, Taylor) or AA'BB (Mulvihill).

It is a popular session reel, correctly classified as a single reel. It is a classic tune recorded during the 78 RPM era by the master Sligo fiddler James Morrison with Leitrim flute player John McKenna (who paired it with another single reel they called "The Tailor's Thimble"). The rather obscure fiddler Joseph Tansey of Gurteen, County Sligo, also recorded the tune in the 78 RPM era, calling it "The Crusheen" (Crusheen is the name of a village in County Clare, but the title could also be an Anglicized version of the Irish *crúiscín*, meaning 'jug'). The reel was entered into Book 2 of the large c. 1883 music manuscript collection of County Leitrim fiddler and piper Stephen Grier (c. 1824-1894) under the title "Pigeon on the Gate".

It was printed sources in Cranitch's **Irish Fiddle Book** (1996), Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), Moylan's **Johnny O'Leary of Sliabh Luachra** (1994), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986) and Taylor's **Through the Half-Door** (1992).

It was recorded by John Wynne and John McEvoy on **Pride of the West** (2007), James Morrison & John McKenna (1929) (78 RPM), John Whelan & Eileen Ivers on **Fresh Takes** (1987) Shaskeen on **Joys of Life** (1983) and **Shaskeen Live**, Micho Russell on **The Limestone Rock** (1993), The Chieftains on **Water from the Well** (2000), The Kilfenora Céilí Band on **Live in Lisdoonvarna** (2002), Brendan P. Lynch on **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music from the Heart of Fingal** (2005) and many others.