

The Rising of the Moon

The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Rising of the Moon'. It consists of five staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. Above the first staff are the chords C, G7, and F. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with a C chord above it. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with G, F, C, and C chords above it. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with G, F, C, and G7 chords above it. The fifth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with a C chord above it. The music ends with a double bar line.

1. "Tell me, tell me, Sean O'Farrell, tell me why you hurry so?"
"Hush a bhuachaill, hush and listen," and his face was all aglow
"I bear orders from the captain, get you ready quick and soon
With your pike upon your shoulder for the rising of the moon".
2. "Oh then, tell me, Sean O'Farrell, where the gathering is to be?"
"Near the old spot by the river, right well known to you and me"
"One more thing, the signal token whistle up the marching tune
With your pike upon your shoulder at the rising of the moon".
3. Out from many a mud-walled cabin, eyes were watching through the night
Many a manly heart was throbbing for the blessed morning light
Murmurs ran along the valley, like some banshee's mournful croon
And a thousand pikes were flashing by the rising of the moon.
4. All along the shining river one dark mass of men was seen
Far above the shining weapons hung their own immortal green
"Death to every foe and traitor. Onward, strike the marching tune
And hurrah me boys for freedom, it's the rising of the moon".
5. Well they fought for dear old Ireland, and full bitter was their fate,
Oh what glorious pride and sorrow fills the name of ninety-eight.
But thank God e'en now are beating hearts in mankind's burning noon,
Who will follow in their footsteps, at the rising of the moon.

One of the best known songs of the 1798 uprising. The poem is by John Keegan Casey and the tune is "The Wearing of the Green". This was recorded by The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem and Peter, Paul and Mary.

I learned it from The Clancy Brothers.

Songs from Irish uprisings and rebellion in this collection are:

Bold Fenian Men

Boolavogue

The Boyne Water

The Boys of Kilmichael

Croppies Lie Down

The Croppy Boy

Kevin Barry

The Old Orange Flute

The Protestant Boys

The Wearing of the Green

The Wind That Shakes the Barley