

The Sailor on the Rock

The musical score for "The Sailor on the Rock" is written in D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by a boxed section labeled 'A'. The chords for section A are D, G, D, and A7. The second staff continues with chords D, G, D, A7, D, and G. The third staff has chords D, G, and a first ending bracket over D and A7. The fourth staff has a second ending bracket over D and A7, followed by a boxed section labeled 'B' with chords D and G. The fifth staff has chords D, G, D, A7, and D. The sixth staff has chords G, D, G, and a first ending bracket over D and A7. The seventh staff has a second ending bracket over D and A7. Fingering numbers 3 and 1 are indicated for specific notes throughout the piece.

"The Sailor on the Rock", in Gaelic "*Maráí ar an gCarraig*" or "*An Mairnéalach ar an gCarraig*", sometimes known as "Johnny with the Queer Thing" is an Irish reel in cut time and D Major. The parts are played AB (Miller & Perron, Taylor/Half-Door, Tubridy), AAB (DeMarco & Krassen), AA'B (Taylor/Sets, Taylor/Tweed), AABB (Flaherty, McGuire & Keegan) or AA'BB' (O'Neill).

The earliest appearance of this tune in print is in Boston music publisher Elias Howe's **1000 Jigs and Reels** (c. 1867), a post-Civil War compendium of tunes that Howe himself collected from New England musicians and numerous others that he gleaned from a variety of publications. Howe's title for the tune was only the generic "A Favorite Reel" with no alternate title and was collected from a local musician, Jimmy Norton, "The Boss Jig Player", whose repertoire included many Irish tunes.

"Sailor on the Rock" was said to have been a local Leitrim tune that McKenna brought into the standard repertoire through his influential 78 RPM recording. It was also recorded in New York in 1922 by Michael Coleman (1891-1945), originally from Killavil, County Sligo.

It was printed in Bulmer & Sharpley's **Music from Ireland, vol. 3** (1976), DeMarco & Krassen's **A Trip to Sligo** (1978), Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), Howe's **1000 Jigs and Reels** (c. 1867) (as "A Favorite Reel"), McGuire & Keegan's **Irish Tunes by the 100, vol. 1** (1975), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, vol. 1** (1977), Miller & Perron's **Irish Traditional Fiddle Music, 2nd Edition** (2006), O'Neill (Krassen) (1976), Taylor's **Through the Half-door** (1992), Taylor's **Traditional Irish Music: Karen Tweed's Irish Choice** (1994), Taylor's **Music for the Sets: Yellow Book** (1995) and Tubridy's **Irish Traditional Music, vol. 1** (1999).

It was recorded by Dermot Diamond, Tara Diamond, Dáithí Sproule on **Seanchairde/Old Friends** (2009), Michael Coleman on **Michael Coleman 1891-1945** (1992), Frankie Gavin on **Frankie Goes to Town** (1991), **Moving Cloud on Moving Cloud** (1995), Chieftains on **Chieftains 3** (1971/1982), Shaskeen on **Shaskeen Live**, Néillidh Mulligan on **The Leitrim Thrush** and (78 RPM) Dan Sullivan's Shamrock Band (1929).