

# Ships Are Sailing

Part A  
Em D Em

C Em D

Em C Em Part B  
Em D

Em D Em D

C D <sup>1</sup> Em D <sup>2</sup> Em D

Detailed description: The musical score is written for guitar in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves. The first staff is labeled 'Part A' and contains a repeat sign followed by a sequence of chords: Em, D, and Em. The second staff continues with chords C, Em, and D. The third staff begins with Em, C, and Em, then has a repeat sign, followed by 'Part B' which starts with Em and D. The fourth staff contains a sequence of chords: Em, D, Em, and D. The fifth staff contains a sequence of chords: C, D, Em, D, Em, D, with first and second endings indicated by brackets and numbers 1 and 2 above the staff.

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"Ships Are Sailing", in Gaelic "*Ta na lungaide*" or "*Longa Ag Seolad*", also known as "The Boy in the Boat", "The Misses is Sick", "Take Her Out and Air Her" and "White-haired Lass" is an Irish and New England reel in cut time and E Dorian. The parts are played AAB (Taylor), AA'B (Mulvihill, O'Neill/1850 & 1001), AABB (Brody, Cole, DeMarco, Flaherty, S. Johnson, Mallinson, Miller & Perron) and AA'BB' (Martin & Hughes, O'Neill/Krassen, Tubridy).

It is a reel that has held currency as a popular session tune among Irish traditional musicians for some time.

A version was printed in Ryan's Mammoth Collection (Boston, 1883) under the "Ships are Sailing" title that is very similar to the one O'Neill printed in 1903, and a version was entered into the 1890's music manuscript collection of London dancing master Patrick D. Reidy under the title "The Misses is Sick". This would seem to indicate that it was widespread at least since the latter 19th century.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Cole's **1000 Fiddle Tunes** (1940), DeMarco & Krassen's **A Trip to Sligo**, Flaherty's **Trip to Sligo** (1990), Giblin's **Collection of Traditional Irish Dance Music** (1928), S. Johnson's **The Kitchen Musician No. 4: Collection of Fine Tunes** (1983) (revised 1991, 2001), Jordan's **Whistle and Sing** (1975), Mallinson's **100 Essential** (1995), Martin & Hughes' *Ho-re-gheallaidh* (1990), Miller & Perron's **New England Fiddlers Repertoire** (1983), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), O'Neill/Krassen (1976), O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903), O'Neill's **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Taylor's **Through the Half-door** (1992) and Tubridy's **Irish Traditional Music, vol. 1** (1999).

It was recorded by Bobby Casey on **Casey in the Cowhouse** (1992. Originally recorded 1959), Red Clay Ramblers on **Merchant's Lunch** (1977), Gail Mulvihill and Mick Moloney on **Irish Music: The Living Tradition, Vol. 2.**, Trapezoid on **Three Forks of Cheat** (1979), Johnny Cronin and Joe Burke, John Vesey on **First Month of Spring** and Shaskeen on **Shaskeen Live**. I learned it from print.