

# The Silver Spire

The musical score for "The Silver Spire" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed letter 'A' above a double bar line, indicating the start of section A. The second staff contains a triplet of eighth notes. The third staff features a first ending bracket over the final two measures. The fourth staff begins with a boxed letter 'B' above a double bar line, indicating the start of section B. The fifth staff contains a triplet of eighth notes. The sixth staff features a first ending bracket over the final two measures. The seventh staff contains a second ending bracket over the final two measures. Chords are indicated by letters G, D, A7, and G above the notes. A double bar line with repeat dots is used at the end of sections A and B.

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"The Silver Spire", in Gaelic "*An spiora airgid*", also known as "Bennett's Favorite", "Great Eastern Reel", "*La Grondeuse*", "John Brennan's Reel" or "Scups Come" is an Irish, Reel in whole or cut time and D Major. The parts are played AABB (most versions) or AA'BB' (Taylor/Crack). The reel was printed by blackface minstrel banjoist James Buckley in 1860 as "Bennett's Favorite" and in Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883) as "Great Eastern Reel". Nearly simultaneously with the Ryan's Mammoth issue, the tune was published under the title "Scups Come" in Laybourn's **Köhlers' Violin Repository Book 2** (1881-1885). The "Silver Spire" title for the tune developed sometime in the intervening years between then and Sligo fiddler Paddy Killoran's 1930 recording of the melody with the new title. The name possibly came from the record company deciding in 1931 to call it after the Empire State Building, completed that same year, or its rival skyscraper the Chrysler Building, completed in 1930 (the Chrysler even has a silver spire adorning its top). Other suggestions are that the title is a corruption of the similar title of another Irish reel, "The Silver Spear".

It was printed in Alewine's **Maid that Cut Off the Chicken's Lips** (1987), Breathnach's **CRÉ I** (1963), Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Mallinson's **100 Essential** (1995), Mulvihill's **1st Collection** (1986), Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883), Taylor's **Where's the Crack** (1989) and Taylor's **Traditional Irish Music: Karen Tweed's Irish Choice** (1994).

It was recorded by Paddy Killoran (1931) Karen Tweed on **The Silver Spire** (1994) Alister Anderson on **Dookin' for Apples** (appears as "Great Eastern Reel"), Canterbury Country Orchestra on **Mistwold**, Donna Hinds on **Old Time Fiddling** (1976) (appears as "*La Grondeuse*"), Tara Ceili Band on **Irish Music: The Living Tradition, Vol. 2** (appears as "John Brennan's Reel"), Joe Derrane on **Give Us Another** (1995), Tommy Peoples on **Fiddles Sticks: Irish Traditional Music from Donegal** (1991), Sharon Shannon (appears in the medley "Glentown"), Jean Carignan (appears as 2nd tune of "Pat Sweeney's Medley"), Paddy Killoran & Patrick Sweeney on **Milestone in the Garden**, John & Phil Cunningham on **Against the Storm** (1980), Matt Molloy on **Heathery Breeze** (1999), Brian Conway on **First Through the Gate** (2002), Paddy Killoran on **Paddy Killoran's Back in Town**, Connaillaigh on **Heat the Hoose** (1998) and Paddy Killoran & Paddy Sweeney on **The Wheels of the World, vol. 2**.