

The Star of the County Down

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first four staves are the main melody, and the fifth staff is a short ending. Chords are indicated above the notes: Am, F, C, G, C, Am, G, Am, F, C, G, C, Am, C, G, C, Am, G, Am, F, C, G, C, Am. The fifth staff has two first endings marked with '1' and '2'.

"Star of County Down", also known as "*Reáilt Condae An Dún*" and "The Star Barndance" is a 3/4 time version of the wide spread 4/4 time tune "Dives and Lazarus" which was adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams for **The English Hymnal** in 1906.

A star, in Irish vernacular, is a beautiful woman. John Loesberg (1980) says the air originally was set to the sheet ballad "My Love Nell", but first appears under the "Star of the County Down" title in Hughes' **Irish Country Songs**, with words written by Cathal MacGarvey (1866-1927). However, this popular air seems to have been attached to numerous songs over the years. I usually play the 3/4 version instrumentally on guitar.