

The Three Sea Captains

Part A

Part B

"The Three Sea Captains", in Gaelic "*Na Tri Taoisaig/Taoiseaca*" is also known as "Clark's Favorite," "William Clark's Favorite" and "The Three Captains", it is a Scottish and Irish long or set dance. The tune appears in the Calvert Collection (1799). This set dance was composed in honor of the victory of the combined fleets of Britain, France and Russia (and their respective sea captains) over the Egyptian and Turkish fleets at the battle of Navarino in 1827. Navarino bay is off Pylos in the Peloponnese of southern Greece. This was the last great sea battle fought with wooden ships and was decisive in the struggle for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire.

It was recorded by The Dubliners, The Chieftains, Eugene O'Donnell, Ann Heymann and others. I learned it from Ann Heymann's playing the clàrsach, Eugene O'Donnell's violin playing and the Mel Bay edition of O'Neill's **Music of Ireland**.