

## The Wily Old Bachelor

The image displays a musical score for the hornpipe "The Wily Old Bachelor" in G Major. The score is organized into two main sections, A and B, each with first and second endings. Section A consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It features a series of eighth-note patterns with guitar chords G, C, D7, G, and D7. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a first ending bracket over a G chord. Section B also consists of two staves. The first staff starts with a second ending bracket over a G chord, followed by a key signature change to G Major (no sharps or flats) and a common time signature. It contains eighth-note patterns with chords G, D7, G, D7, G, and C. The second staff concludes the piece with a first ending bracket over a G chord, followed by a double bar line and repeat sign.

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"The Wily Old Bachelor", in Gaelic "*An Seangiolla Criona*", also known as "The Bashful Bachelor", "Obelisk Hornpipe", "Shaw's Reel", "Walk Your Chalk" or "Where Did You Find Her?" is an Irish hornpipe in G Major. The parts are played AABB.

The tune is a hornpipe that has been part of the Irish traditional repertory since the early 78 RPM era to the present day. It was first published with the "Wily Old Bachelor" title by Francis O'Neill, who declined to list a source for the tune. However, versions that predate O'Neill are to be found in Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883) as "Shaw's Reel" and "Obelisk Hornpipe."

Still earlier, the melody appears in blackface minstrel George H. Coes' **Coes' Album of Jigs and Reels** (1876) as "Walk Your Chalk". While Coes is the earliest collection to contain both strains in one tune, an American provenance cannot be determined. In fact, both strains show up in tunes in the (latter) 19th century.

The first strain is also shared with "Norfolk Hornpipe" credited to W.H. Whiddon in Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (c. 1883) and has similarities to the second strain of "Whiddon's Hornpipe."

It was printed in O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903) and **Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems** (1907).

It was recorded by P.J. Herson, Donal Herson and Maria Lynn McHugh on **The Mountain Road** (1999), Michael Cregan on **The Coleman Archive, vol. 2: The Home Place** (2005), Johnny Pickering on **Seoltaí Séidte - Setting Sail** (2004), John Carty on **Yeh, That's All It Is** (2001) and Caitlín Nic Gabhann on **Caitlín** (2012).