

# LORD MAYO

David Murphy (17th C.)

*Spirited (mm=72)*

The musical score is written for piano and bass. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked as *Spirited (mm=72)*. The first system shows a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a simple accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed above the first measure of the bass staff. The second system starts at measure 3 and includes first and second endings. The first ending is marked *dim.* (diminuendo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano), while the second ending is also marked *dim.* and *mp*. The third system starts at measure 6 and features a *f* dynamic marking. The fourth system starts at measure 9. The fifth system starts at measure 12 and includes a first ending. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

# LORD MAYO

Musical score for 'Lord Mayo', starting at measure 14. The score is written for piano (poco rit.) and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef begins with a series of eighth notes, followed by a dotted quarter note, and then a series of quarter notes. The bass clef accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, including a prominent F# in the first measure. The score ends with a double bar line.

The composer of this stately piece is said to be one “David Murphy” (“David” - not a common Irish first name even today - is probably meant as a close English approximation to the Gaelic “Dáithí”).

The story goes that the tune was composed by Mr. Murphy to get himself back into the good graces of his patron, the eponymous Lord Mayo, although the circumstances that led to the ill-feeling have not been recorded. We know little else about Mr. Murphy. However, Chief O’Neill in *Irish Minstrels and Musicians* claims that another harper named Thady Keenan in fact composed the tune, leaving us to surmise that Murphy might have been responsible for the lyrics. These consist of fulsome praise of Lord Mayo, perhaps a little hard to take for us today but not untypical of the time. An example: “Mayo! Whose valour sweeps the field / And swells the trump of fame / May Heav’n’s high power the champion shield / And deathless be his name! / Of glory’s sons, thou glorious heir / Thou branch of honor’s root”, etc etc etc ad nauseam.

Fortunately for Mr. Murphy and whatever remained of his self-respect, the Lord apparently relented, with the result that the friendship of nobleman and harper was restored.