

OLD TRUAGH

Bunting collection

Andante legato (~ 72)

Musical notation for measures 1-3. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Measure 1 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest. The bass clef has a whole rest. A repeat sign follows. The second measure of the first system has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, and D3.

Musical notation for measures 4-7. Measure 4 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, and D3. The second measure of this system has a repeat sign. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, and D3.

Musical notation for measures 8-11. Measure 8 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, and D3. A first ending bracket labeled '1' covers measures 8 and 9. A second ending bracket labeled '2' covers measures 10 and 11. The first ending ends with a repeat sign. The second ending ends with a repeat sign.

Musical notation for measures 12-15. Measure 12 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, and D3. The second measure of this system has a repeat sign. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, and D3.

Musical notation for measures 16-19. Measure 16 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef has a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass clef has a whole note chord of G2, B2, and D3. A first ending bracket labeled '1' covers measures 16 and 17. A second ending bracket labeled '2' covers measures 18 and 19. The first ending ends with a repeat sign. The second ending ends with a repeat sign.

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A harp tune (also known as “Old Triugha”) collected by Bunting at the 1792 Belfast harpers’ meeting from the County Leitrim harper Charles Byrne (1712 - c.1810). The actual composer seems to be unknown although O’Carolan is naturally a candidate.

According to the entry for the tune in the "Fiddler's Companion", it had previously been published as "Ye Trugh" (?) by Neal in 1724, and harpist Ann Haymann (1992) says it was quite popular, with many instrumental and vocal variants.

Byrne was Bunting’s source for several Carolan tunes, and had a wealth of stories. Arthur O’Neill (1734-1818), a blind harper who also played at the Belfast Harp Festival and who was one of the last of the old itinerant harpers, mentions the tune in his memoirs.

“Truaigh” (or a variant spelling), meaning a division of land, is the name of several places in Ireland. Lyrics beginning with the words “Arise from thy slumbers, oh, fairest of maids!” were composed to the tune by a Miss Balfour, but I have never heard the song performed.