

# SÍ BEAG, SÍ MÓR

("Sheebeg Sheemore")

T. O Carolan (1660-1738)

*Allegro* (~ 120)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). Measure 1 contains a treble clef staff with a quarter note D4 and a bass clef staff with a whole rest. Measure 2 begins with a repeat sign and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The treble staff has a dotted quarter note D4, and the bass staff has a dotted quarter note D3. Measures 3 and 4 continue the melodic and harmonic development.

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The treble staff features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment with quarter notes.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff has a steady accompaniment with quarter notes.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Measure 13 features a long melisma in the treble staff. Measure 14 begins with a repeat sign and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The treble staff has a dotted quarter note D4, and the bass staff has a dotted quarter note D3.

Musical notation for measures 17-20. The treble staff has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff has a steady accompaniment with quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *cresc.* is present in measure 17.

## SI BEAG, SI MOR

25

*mf*

3

*dim.*

30

1

*mf*

33

2

*molto rit.*

One of the best-known of O'Carolan's harp pieces. The title means "Little Fairy, Big Fairy" and evidently refers to a pair of hills near the County Leitrim estate of the Bard's good friend and patron George Reynolds. Local folklore tells of a battle between two fairy bands - presumably the Littles and the Bigs - for whom the hills were named. (It should be noted for the sake of accuracy that this is not the only explanation of the title.)

Roughly 350 years after its composition, this pleasant lilting tune remains a staple in the repertoire of today's session musicians and makes a handy waltz when one is required.