

# The BEND of the RIVER

O'Neill collection

Gently (mm ~ 55)

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 6/8 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a bass line with eighth notes. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present in the first measure.

5

Musical notation for measures 5-8. The melody continues with similar rhythmic patterns, and the bass line remains active with eighth notes.

9

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The piece maintains its gentle character with consistent rhythmic accompaniment.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-15. The melodic line shows some chromatic movement, and the bass line continues its steady eighth-note accompaniment.

16

Musical notation for measures 16-19. A dynamic marking of *rit.* (ritardando) is present in the first measure of this system, indicating a gradual deceleration of the tempo.

## *BEND of the RIVER*

19

accel.

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'Bend of the River'. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The first measure of the treble staff contains a melodic line starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff has a dotted quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note F#3. The second measure of the treble staff has a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a half note G4 with a sharp sign above it. The bass staff has a quarter note F#3, a quarter note G3, and a half note F#3. The third measure of the treble staff has a whole note chord of G4 and B4. The bass staff has a whole note chord of G2 and F#3. The fourth measure of the treble staff has a whole note chord of G4, B4, and C5. The bass staff has a whole note chord of G2, F#3, and G3. The fifth measure of the treble staff has a whole note chord of G4, B4, and C5. The bass staff has a whole note chord of G2, F#3, and G3. The sixth measure of the treble staff has a whole note chord of G4, B4, and C5. The bass staff has a whole note chord of G2, F#3, and G3. The word 'accel.' is written below the first measure of the treble staff. A large oval is drawn around the bass staff in the third, fourth, and fifth measures.

From *Music of Ireland* (1903), the first tune collection assembled by Capt. Francis O'Neill (1849 - 1936). Since "the Chief" provides no further information on its source, we can only guess that it might have originally been a harp piece.

However, in his introduction to the 1987 reprint of O'Neill's *Irish Minstrels and Musicians*, the eminent tune collector and expert on traditional music Breandán Breathnach proposes a theory that at least some of the more obscure pieces contained in *Music of Ireland* were new compositions and not "traditional" at all. While he finds no problem (from a musical standpoint) with their inclusion, Breathnach does fault O'Neill for not advising his readers of the fact. One is left to wonder if this is the situation concerning "Bend of the River", which remains a lovely tune regardless of its pedigree (or lack thereof).