

BB'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

"I - J" TUNES

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The ICE CREAM HORNPIPE

© BB

G Am G D7 G
 D G C G Am G C D7 G
 D G D7 G D G Em C
 D G D G C G D G D G

<<

It shouldn't surprise anyone to find out that this was composed on a warm August night, while visions of a Dairy Queen caramel sundae (yes, WITH whipped cream and nuts!) were dancing in my head . . .

IN DAYS GONE BY (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in a treble clef. Chord symbols are placed above the staff lines. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some quarter notes. There are repeat signs at the end of the second and fourth staves. A tilde (~) is placed above a note in the second staff.

Chord symbols for the first staff: Dm, Dm, Am, C, Am7, Dm, A7

Chord symbols for the second staff: Dm, C, Dm, F, Am7, Dm

Chord symbols for the third staff: Dm7, Am7, Dm, Dm, Am7, Dm7, A, Dm

Chord symbols for the fourth staff: Dm7, Am7, Dm7, Am7, Dm7, A7, Dm7, A, Dm



Ed Reavy of Cavan and Philadelphia was a prolific composer with many fine tunes to his credit. Unlike many of his composing brethren, Mr. Reavy did not hesitate to give names to his tunes. That fact alone merits this humble effort of mine in Mr. Reavy's honor. (FYI ITTL tunefolder 52 contains all Ed Reavy tunes in print. If you like Ed's music, have a look.)

The IRISH EMBASSY (reel)

© BB

Am Em G Am G Am

Am Em G Am G Am

Am Em G Am Em D Am

Am Em G Am G Am

<<

We had been living in Falmouth on Cape Cod for a couple of years when we noticed one day that a local pub had been sold and renamed "The Irish Embassy". It quickly became notorious (in a good way, if such a thing is possible) and was the scene of some wonderful concerts and sessions over the years. After a couple of ownership and name changes, it's now a "sports bar". Yawn. . .sic transit etc. But we're still friends with one of the original owners, Dublin's own Dermot a/k/a/ "Filbert" Quinn. It sure was a fun place back in the day!

IRISH JACK DOHERTY'S (hornpipe)

© BB 2006

D Em D A G A7 D G D A
 D Em D A G A7 D A7 D
 D C D Bm G D A
 D C D A7 D

Jack Doherty was a well-known supporter of all things Irish here on the Cape until his passing in October 2006. He was also a dedicated member of several local veterans' organizations and had the reputation of being the man to talk to if you needed help of any kind. I'm sure his kind soul is enjoying all the tunes in Heaven right now!

ISLE of the BLEST (air)

© BB 2006

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The chords and triplets are as follows:

- Staff 1: A, A, A, D, E
- Staff 2: A, F#m, A, E, A
- Staff 3: Em, A, A, D, E
- Staff 4: A, D, A, D, A, E, A
- Staff 5: Em, A, F#m, E
- Staff 6: A, D, A, D, A, E, A

Triplets are indicated with a '3' below the notes in measures 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 of the score.

Most cultures seem to have legends about a place where the souls of the departed will find eternal happiness. We call it Heaven, but it's also known as The Happy Isles or Isles of the Blest. It's a beautiful thought and I can only hope it's where we're all going to wind up (even us banjo players).

JACK & ALFIE'S POLKA

© BB 2/21

G Am G D7 G Am G Am G
 G Am D C G Am G Am G
 G D7 Em G Am G D7 G Am G
 G D7 Em G G D7 G Am G

Jack and Alfie are two young Irish lads who live with Mom, Dad, and their younger sister Rosie in Trim (Co. Meath). We met them when we were back in Ireland in June 2022. They're great kids, and I hope one of them decides to be a musician at some point. He (or she) will probably be surprised to find out that his great-grand-uncle-in-law (???) in America composed this!

JACK HALEY'S (reel)

© BB 2009

Am Am Em G Am Em

Am F G Am C Dm Am G Am

C Dm C F Am G C G Am

C Dm C F Am G Am G Am

<<

Jack was the husband of Boston's legendary dance teacher Maureen Haley. He was also a great supporter of the dancers and the musicians who provided the music for them.

JACK MURPHY'S (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'Jack Murphy's' is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The chords for each staff are as follows:

- Staff 1: Dm, C, Am, Dm, Dm, Bb, C
- Staff 2: Dm, C, Am, Dm, Am, C, Dm
- Staff 3: F, Dm, F, C, Gm, C7
- Staff 4: F, Dm, Dm, Bb, Am7, Dm

The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing triplets. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Jack enjoyed Irish music as often as his job as deckhand on a tugboat would allow!

JACK'S MAGICAL PIPES (hornpipe)

© BB

D G A Em A A7
 D G Em D G A D
 Bm F#m Bm F#m7 Bm
 Bm F#m D Em D A D

<<

There's a great story in O'Neill's "Irish Minstrels and Musicians" about a certain Jack Moore, a mediocre piper who became a great player after the fairies presented him with a new set of pipes. (There are different versions of this tale but, oddly enough, none featuring banjo players.)

JANEEN SULLIVAN'S WALTZ

© BB

D G A
D Em D A
D G D Bm
A D
Bm A D F#m
G Bm A
Bm A D F#m
G Bm A D

Janeen was a lovely young lady who left us all too early. RIP.

JENNY PRIOR'S (hornpipe)

© BB

D F#m Bm7 D G D Em A

D F#m Bm7 D G D A D

D A7 D F#m7 Bm G D Em A

D A D F#m7 Bm G D A D

<<

For our County Meath grand-niece Jenny, husband John, and kids Jack, Alfie, and Rosie - with love and best wishes to all of them! (The tune was composed before she got married, hence her "maiden name" [as they used to call it] in the title. Should actually be "Jenny Carney's"!)

JERRY O'BRIEN'S (reel)

© BB

D Bm D Bm D F#m Em
 D Bm D Bm D A7 D
 D F#m Bm G D A
 D F#m Bm G Em7 A7 D

This tune is named for the Boston melodeon player (originally from Kinsale, Co. Cork) who taught Joe Derrane and other musicians. Jerry also published a tune collection and an accordion tutor (both presently out of print). I have many of the tunes in Jerry's book in ITTL tunefolder 59.

A JIG FOR WILLIE

© BB

The musical score for "A Jig for Willie" is written in 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of D major (one sharp). The third and fourth staves are in the key of B minor (two flats). The music is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets. Chords are indicated above the notes. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Chords for the first staff: Em, Bm, Em, G, D7

Chords for the second staff: Em, G, C, G, Am, Em, Em

Chords for the third staff: Gm, F, Gm, F, Gm, Dm

Chords for the fourth staff: Gm, F, Gm, F, Gm, Gm

Composed for Willie Kelly of New Jersey's fiddling Kelly brothers (Joe - now Father Francis - is the older one) . They're both fine musicians and terrific guys, and we're privileged to consider the Kelly family as friends.

JIM BOYCE'S HORNPIPE

© BB 2015

D D G A
 D D Bm A D A D
 D F#m Bm F#m D F#m G A
 D Bm D G D G D A D

<<

Composed in honor of Cape Cod musician, luthier, boat builder, and flagpole raiser (and good friend) Jim Boyce. Jim, who passed away in October 2015, was one of the first musicians we met when we moved to the Cape full-time in 1979. The Falmouth Fiddlers - the group that he founded thirty-odd years ago - are still going strong and intending to keep Jim's memory alive for many years!

JIM MCGINTY'S (jig)

© BB 2010

G C G D C D
 G D C G Am G D G
 G G Am Am7 D
 G D G C G D G

<<

Jim McGinty, who passed away in June of 2010, was a great lover of, and worker for, traditional music. Jim spent all his life as a teacher in the New York area and devoted much of his spare time and energy to promoting Irish music. He and his wife Barbara were always a big part of CCE and always enlivened its many conventions, fleadhanna, and music clubs with their presence.

JIMMY KELLY'S BANJO (jig)

© BB

D D A7 D A7 Bm
 D D A7 Bm Em A D
 D A7 D G D Em A
 D A7 F#m7 Bm D Em A D

To know Jimmy Kelly was to love him (although it usually took a little time to get used to him!). His banjo style was a lively combination of Irish traditional and American jazz (similar to the Flanagan Brothers). There's a sample of Jimmy's incredible playing on my Tune Vault site (www.capeirish.com/tune_vault#irish). I kept promising myself that I'd sit down with Jimmy one day to find out how he did it, but - as in so many other things - I waited too long.

JIMMY MAC'S (reel)

© BB

Bm D Bm D G D A
 Bm D G Bm A D
 Bm A D Bm A Bm
 Bm A D G D A D
 D Bm D Em D Bm D A
 D Bm D Em Bm A D

This tune is named for Jimmy McGreevey, a fine box player originally from Roscommon who has lived many years in Dublin. I always tried to get together with him for a few tunes when I was in town.

JIMMY the BOX (reel)

© BB 2006

G Em G Em Am Em
 G C Em G Am7 G D G
 D G Em D G Em
 D G Em C G D7 G

Dedicated to the memory of Jim Coogan - a/k/a/ "Jim at the Box Office" - guru of the accordion, session leader, IRTRAD poster, cheerleader for "Cherish the Ladies" (of which group Jim's daughter Mary is a charter member) , and friend of anything to do with Irish music. Jim passed away in November of 2006.

JOE KELLY'S RETREAT (jig)

© BB

D G Em Bm D D C

D G D A A7 D D

D G C D D G A C

D G D Bm A7 D

The inspiration for this tune was the fiddling of Joe Kelly, the older of the two Kelly brothers (Willie's the other one) who have brought such great music into the world. Joe has for years been Father Francis Kelly and he's been too busy to do much fiddling!

JOE MADDEN'S BIG DAY (reel)

© BB

D Bm7 D Bm7 D Bm7 D G

D Bm7 D Em D G A D

Bm Em7 D G D Bm A

Bm Em7 D G Bm A D

Gaelic Park in NYC could just about accommodate the crowd who turned out to honor Joe on his "big day" in 1992!

JOHN EYRE'S CASTLE (jig)

Tune 1 of the "Tribute to Martin Mulhaire" (1936-2020)

© B.Black 9/20

Am C G Am Em Am G

Am C G Am D Em Am

Am D Am Am Em C G

Am C G Am G Em Am

<<

JOHNNY BY GOLLY! (hornpipe)

© BB

Chords: Bm D Em Bm D A

Chords: Bm D Em Bm A7 D

Chords: G A D G Bm G Bm A

Chords: G A D Em Bm G A7 D

Chords: Bm D Em Bm A7 D

Chords: G A D Em Bm G A7 D

<<

For Chicago's Johnny McGreevey RIP. This commemorates one of Johnny's favorite phrases!

JOHNNY'S WELCOME to HEAVEN (reel)

reel

© BB

G Am Em G Em D7
 G Am Em G D G
 G Am G Em Em G Em
 G Am G Em G D7 G

<<

For Kerry's own Johnny Cronin - as they say, "his like will not be seen again." RIP.

JOLLY OLD JIM (jig)

© BB 2005

D Bm D D G A7

Bm D G D A7 D D

D Bm G D Em A

D Bm G D A D

There's an old codger who lives down the street who hates puppies, kitties, children, the poor, minorities, the disabled, veterans, etc etc. And that's not to mention his darker side. But otherwise he's not a bad guy - honestly!

The JUNE BABY (jig)

© BB 2009

D F#m G A D A D Bm

G F#m Em D G D A D

A A D D

A A G Em A D

This is a birthday tune for Miss Catherine Sylvia-Everett, born to piper Colin and his wife Elizabeth (and big sister Aubrey) on June 27, 2009.