

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

"K" Tunes

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KATHLEEN & CHRISTY'S WALTZ

The Carndonagh Waltz

© BB 2/21

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

D D Em A D G D Em D

A D A G Bm F#m D D

A D A G Bm D D Em D

For two of the nicest folks I know - my Dublin brother and sister-in-law Kathleen and Christy Rogers, who just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. We actually joined the celebration on Zoom! We're happy that we got to see them in person at their grand-daughter's wedding in June 2022. (It was the last time we saw Kathleen, who passed away in October 2022. May her kind soul rest in peace.)

KATIE'S GHOST (reel)

© BB

Em Bm D Em D Em
Em Bm D C G Bm Em
G Em G Bm
G Em G G Em 1 Bm Em 2 Bm Em



Our former home town of Falmouth is the birthplace of Katherine Lee Bates, composer of "America the Beautiful". There's a granite statue of her on the front lawn of the town library. At night it's illuminated by a spotlight. We were having dinner in a pub across the street from the statue one foggy night when a young friend of ours glanced out the window, suddenly turned pale, and nearly choked on his burger. It took a few minutes for him to get his breath back after we explained to him what had been looking at. (Poor Katie DID look a little spooky that night!)

KAY O'BRIEN'S (jig)

© BB 2009

A Bm F#m A Bm A E

A Bm F#m A D E A

E E A F#m

E E A D E A

A jig in memory of Catherine (Kay) O'Brien, a great lady and great fan of Irish music who passed away in August 2009. We like to feel that Kay is with us whenever we play "her" tune (usually with "The Kesh" and "Killaval" as part of the "Three K's" set). I'm sure she and husband Pat (RIP April 2022) are together enjoying the music in Heaven right now!

KEITH O'NEILL'S (reel)

© BB 2015

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 notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Dm F Dm Dm C Dm C Dm Am
- Staff 2: Dm Dm Am Dm C F Dm C Dm
- Staff 3: Dm C F Dm Dm C Am Dm
- Staff 4: F C F C F Dm Dm C Dm

The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth staff.

In memory of a terrific musician and great guy - founding member of our Northeast Ceili Band - who passed away unexpectedly in October 2015. I will always be grateful for the opportunities I had to spend time with him.

KEN VESEY'S (hornpipe)

© BB

C Am7 C G C Dm D G
 C Am7 C G C G C G Am G C
 C F C Am Am7
 C F C Am C G7 C

Ken is a friend of ours from a great New Jersey musical family who needed some encouragement a few years back. I'm pleased to say he came through his ordeal in fine style!

The KERRY GOLD REEL

© BB 2013

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

Next time you're out food shopping you may come across some butter or cheese with this brand name. Take my advice and get some - it's great stuff and you won't be sorry. (Just in case you're wondering - I am NOT an "influencer", just a guy who likes to eat. I haven't figured out a way to make money doing either one yet.)

The KEYS of KIERAN (hornpipe)

© BB 2016

Am Dm G Em Am Dm Am Dm C G

Am Dm G Em Am G F Em Am

C G C G Dm F Dm F

C G C Dm F G C G C

At the 2016 and 2017 Cape Cod Ceili Weekends the Northeast Ceili Band was joined onstage by Kieran Flanagan, Rosemary and Mike's keyboard-playing son. It was a great treat to have such a fine young musician playing with us. I composed this to commemorate the occasion. He's welcome back any time!

The KIDS in the POOL (jig)

© BB

D C D Am

D C D A7 D

D G D C Am

D C D A7 D

Once or twice a summer, friends of ours used to bring their large family (sometimes with the addition of a few cousins) down from Boston to take advantage of our swimming pool. It was comical to watch kids turning blue but still refusing to admit that they were freezing! We always had a great afternoon, but the kids are no longer kids and the house with the pool was sold in 2014. But we still have a lot of fond memories of those afternoons.

The KILBAHA QUAY (jig)

© BB

Dm Am7 Dm Am C
 Dm Am7 Dm Am7 Dm
 Dm C Dm C Dm
 Dm C Am7 Dm

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Kilbaha is on the Clare side of the Shannon estuary. Looking across to the Kerry side, you can see the famous "Cliffs of Dooneen" that the song celebrates. In the days of sail Kilbaha was the location where the Shannon river pilots would board incoming vessels, hence the title of the great shipwreck ballad "The Five Pilots of Kilbaha" ("the wind sang high on the rocky coast, to the dance of the restless tide") The pilot station is now a few miles upriver at Kilrush. NOTE: I was contacted on 6/11/23 by Mr. Shawn Cassady, who advised me that the original version of this tune and "Frankie O'Neill's" (12321) were the same tune. He was 100% correct and I still don't know how that happened.

The KILKEE FARMER (hornpipe)

© BB

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

This tune was composed for my West Clare banjo colleague James O'Halloran. I met James at the Irish Embassy pub here on the Cape back in the 1980's, and for some reason I thought he was a farmer when he's actually a contractor. I decided to keep "Farmer" in the name anyway, since "Kilkee Contractor" doesn't have quite the same "trad" sound! With best wishes to the O'Halloran family - hope we get to see them again some day!

KILLEEN'S OWN TOWN (hornpipe)

© BB

Em G C G Am G D7

Em G Am C D G

G A A7 D7 D G

G A A7 D7 D G D G

<<

This is a "tip of the cap" for a good friend and fine musician, Kevin Killeen, founding member of our Northeast Ceili Band and a great man for the tunes! (The town of Killeen - which can mean either "little hill" or "little church" in Irish - is in Co. Mayo.) It's always great to see Kevin, wife Maureen, and daughters Fiona and Grace up here on the Cape.

The KILMIHIL LASSIES (reel)

© BB 2006

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

Dedicated to County Clare's Millar sisters, Vanessa and Caoimhe, fine box players both, who will be adding a lot to traditional music in West Clare and elsewhere in the years to come.

The KILNADEEMA FANCY (jig)

© BB

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

Kilnadeema is a little town outside Loughrea, Co. Galway. Its main claim to fame is the fact that it's where Joe Burke and his wife Anne lived (RIP Joe as of March 2021). Joe was in NYC when I first got involved in ITM, and I'll always be grateful to him for his patience with a "newbie" backup player!

The KING of the HILL (jig)

© BB

G Em C Gdim G Am Em C
 G Em C Gdim G D7 G G
 G Em7 G Em7 C A7 D7
 G Am G G D7 G G

<<

This is dedicated to a friend of ours who managed to rise to a position of importance in local politics while also managing to remain a decent human being and fine family man. I wish there were more like him around these days.

The KING of the KEYS (hornpipe)

© BB

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

<<

In honor of that finest of piano men and "gentle giant", the late Felix Dolan.

The KINVARA SHORE (slide)

© BB

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major) and a 12/8 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a D chord above the first measure. The second staff has D, A, and D chords above the first, third, and fifth measures respectively. The third staff has Bm, A, Bm, and Em chords above the first, second, fourth, and fifth measures respectively. The fourth staff has D, A, and D chords above the first, third, and fifth measures respectively. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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Kinvara is a picturesque fishing town on the south-eastern shore of Galway Bay, right "around the corner" from Galway city. Since it's not anywhere near Kerry, it probably doesn't have any other slides (or polkas, for that matter) named after it. (Notice I said "probably" - anyway I couldn't find any.)

KITTENS in the TUNA FISH (hornpipe)

© BB 2006

1 A D G D E7 A

2 A D A D

1 D G A

2 D A G D A7 D

This tune was inspired by Greg Johnson, a fine multi-instrumentalist who lives here on Cape Cod and runs the long-standing Saturday session at the Olde Inne. Greg was one of the first musicians to welcome us when we first move to the Cape in 1979. I composed this to sound like one of the classic "ragtimey" hornpipes in the Ryan's collection.