

BB'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

"S" TUNES

Table of Contents

SAINT RAYMOND'S (fling)
SANDY CONNOLLY'S (jig)
SARA'S PORCH (jig)
SARAH'S BLISS (slip jig)
SCRAMBLED EGGS (jig)
SEAHORSE HORNPIPE, The
SEAN at the WHEEL (reel)
SEAN BERRY'S (jig)
SECOND CITY (reel), The
SHANNON PILOT (reel), The
SINGING SISTERS (jig), The
SIX FOOT SANDWICH (jig), The
SIX IN THE MORNING (jig)
SLEEPY REEL, The
SNOW on the ROOF (reel)
SNOWY OWL (jig), The
SNOWY ROAD to MICK'S (slide), The
SOLANUS CASEY'S (jig)
SOME GAVE ALL (hornpipe)
SON of the PRAIRIE (reel), A
SOUTH BANK of the SHANNON (jig), The
SOUTH SHORE LASSES (reel), The
SPRING AT LAST! (jig)
STARFISH (jig), The
STEVEN PRIOR'S (jig)
STEVIE'S BOAT (reel)
STONEHILL FAIR (jig), The
STROLLING WITH ROSIE (jig)
SUNNYSIDE UP (reel)
SUNSET PARK (jig), The
SWANS of GLEN LOUGH (slide), The
SWEET SKIES of LOUTH (jig), The

SAINT RAYMOND'S (fling)

© BB

D G D D Bm A

D G A Bm D Bm A7 D

D Bm G A D Em D G A

D Bm A D D G A7 D

Saint Raymond's is a huge cemetery in the Bronx that serves as the final resting place for people like Michael Coleman, James Morrison, Johnny Cronin, Andy McGann, and I don't know how many other musicians. Of course there are sessions every night but folks think it's just the sound of the wind. . .

SANDY CONNOLLY'S (jig)

© BB

D G D Bm A G A

D Em D G D A D

D G Em D G D A

D G Em D G Bm A D

In memory of Séamus Connolly's late wife Chryssandra (RIP after losing a long battle with cancer in March 2011).

SARA'S PORCH (jig)

© BB 2013

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

<<

This tune is a tribute to Sara Piazza, whose front porch in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard is always a welcoming summer location for traditional musicians.

SARAH'S BLISS (slip jig)

© BB

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

<<

A while back our friend Sarah Murphy opened an Irish gift shop called "Celtic Bliss". She asked if we would play for the grand opening, which we were happy to do. I wrote this tune to commemorate the big day!

SCRAMBLED EGGS (jig)

© BB 2009

A A7 D A Bm A E
 D E A D A E A
 A E F#m A Bm A D
 A A7 D E A E A

Scrambled eggs were at one time our grand-daughter Rosie's favorite cuisine. Sometimes if she was really hungry the refinements of fork and/or spoon would be dispensed with, and fingers would be put to good use to get the yummy golden stuff into the mouth (or close thereto) in the quickest way possible!

The SEAHORSE HORNPIPE

Tune 2 of the South Coast Hornpipe Set

© B.Black 10/20

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

This tune, "The Llama's Pajamas" [12341], and "The Fairhaven" [12343], are dedicated to Colin Everett and the other South Coast musicians who did their best to keep the music alive during the pandemic. This title is taken from the local name for Dunseith Park in lovely Mattapoissett, where Colin & co. do an outdoor session in the warmer months. There's a big seahorse at the park entrance which has been there for many years - I think it used to belong to a gift shop which is now long gone - but the locals love it and it has become a kind of town mascot. Good call! Can't have too many 20-foot seahorses!

SEAN at the WHEEL (reel)

© BB

The musical score consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, written in a key with one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily eighth-note based. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. The first staff has chords: Dm, C, Dm, Dm, Am, Dm, C. The second staff has chords: Dm, C, Dm, Dm, Am, C7, Dm. The third staff has chords: Dm, Dm7, Dm, C, Dm7, Dm, Dm, Am. The fourth staff has chords: Dm, Dm7, Dm, C, Dm, Am, C7, Dm. A double bar line is present at the end of the fourth staff.

Anyone who has tried to steer a van down an interstate and play tunes on a fiddle at the same time will appreciate Seán Reynolds' efforts not to get us all killed. (This tune has been brilliantly recorded by fine fiddler and Solas member Winnie Horan - thanks, Win!)

SEAN BERRY'S (jig)

© BB

Am G Am G C G Am

Am G Am C G Am Am

Am G C G Am G G Em

Am Em G Em Am G Am Am

Seán was a Connemara man well known in Boston music circles for his support of all things Irish. He passed away in September 1996.

The SECOND CITY (reel)

© BB

<<

Am Am F C Dm G

Am Am Dm7 G F G Am

C C Am C Em Am

C C Em Am G F G Am

Am Am G Am Em Am G

Am Am Em C Am7 F G Am

This tune has existed for many years as "Seventh City" which I always thought was a nickname for Dublin (although I couldn't figure out why). Well, there's a good reason: it turns out the phrase is "Second City", as in "Second City of the British Empire" (London of course being Number One). Even though Ireland has not been part of the Empire for many years, I'm sure it's comforting to Dubliners to know that their home town was once thought of so highly by their neighbors next door (so to speak).

The SHANNON PILOT (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The chords for each staff are as follows:

- Staff 1: Am, G, Em, Am, D, G
- Staff 2: Am, G, Em, Am, Em7, Am, G, Am
- Staff 3: Am, G, Em, Am, D, Em, Am
- Staff 4: Am, G, Em, Am, D, G, Am

The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and a triplet in the second staff. A double bar line is present at the end of the fourth staff.

When we were travelling in West Clare some years ago, I had the opportunity of taking a ride out on the Shannon River with one of the river pilots who was going out to board a ship. It was quite a treat for a ship enthusiast like me to be able to spend an hour or so on the "broad majestic Shannon"!

The SINGING SISTERS (jig)

© BB

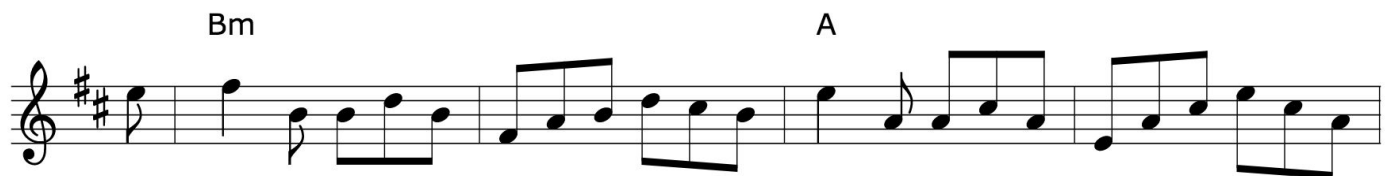
G Am Em C G Am G Em
 G Am Em C D D7 G G
 Em C G D Em Am G Em
 Em C G C G D7 G G

For the Deck sisters, Rosalie and Rosamund - sisters by birth and sisters in religion - who were both fine musicians and beloved teachers at Sacred Heart High School in Kingston MA.

The SIX FOOT SANDWICH (jig)

Loretta Egan's

© BB



The first time I ever encountered one of those notorious six-foot sandwiches was at a session at box player Loretta Egan's apartment in Manhattan many years ago. I can affirm that there wasn't any kind of known cheese, cold cut, or salad that wasn't somewhere in that sandwich. (The music was pretty good too!) I last saw Loretta when she was visiting the Cape a few years back and stopped in to play at our session. It was great to hear her again!

SIX IN THE MORNING (jig)

© BB

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

Certainly not my favorite time of day, but there are people who actually LIKE IT!!!. They're usually NOT musicians but strange people like fishermen, golfers, joggers, and other assorted sociopaths that it's always best to avoid even though they might pretend to be normal . . .

The SLEEPY REEL

© BB

The musical score for "The Sleepy Reel" is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes. The first staff contains the following chords: Am, C, Am, Am7, C, Am, Em, G. The second staff contains: Am, C, Am, Am7, Am, D, Am, G, Am. The third staff contains: Am, G, Em, Am, Em, G, Am, G, Am. The fourth staff contains: Am, G, Em, Am, Am, D, Am, G, Am. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. A double less-than sign (<<) is positioned to the left of the fourth staff.

Named for everyone's (well, NEARLY everyone's) favorite Hollywood dwarf. After doing the Snow White movie, Sleepy returned to Ireland to run a B & B in Kerry called "Leprechaun Lodge" with his partners Grumpy and Sneazy. Unhappily the venture failed after a few years. (Thanks to Win Horan and Mick McAuley of Solas for recording this tune a few years ago!)

SNOW on the ROOF (reel)

© BB

G Em Bm C D Em Bm D
 G Em C Am G D7 G
 Em Bm G D C D Em C D Em7
 Em Bm C Bm C G D7 G

It happens that Cape Cod can go for years without more than six or seven inches of snow during the winter (which sometimes lasts until mid-April). Other years we'll get blasted with two big storms a week. Problem is that you can never tell which kind of winter it's going to be - the "Farmer's Almanac", Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog, and lately Brigitte the European Model are usually guessing the same as the rest of us!

The SNOWY OWL (jig)

© BB 2014

A F#m A F#m Bm
 A D E D A D E
 A F#m D A F#m Bm
 A E D A D A EA A

Yeah, I know - another owl title, right? Here's the story: I needed a name for a tune and while I was racking my brain (never a pretty sight) I happened to see a copy of the kids' edition of "National Geographic". Can you guess what pretty white birdie was on the cover? If you said "turkey vulture" you might need professional help (they aren't white anyway).

The SNOWY ROAD to MICK'S (slide)

© BB

D F#m7 A7 D

D F#m7 G A7 D

Em D D G D A

Em D Em A D

To commemorate a never-to-be-fully-explained trip to Mick Cronin's farm in the wilds of Sliabh Luachra. Ostensible purpose: to deliver a bag of Latino vegetables and a carton of assorted fermented spirits being sent by Mick's brother Johnny in Brooklyn. Additional details are available (to adults only) upon request. "From a Kerryman in New York to his brother," I told the agriculture inspector at the airport when I arrived in Ireland. "Right so!" says he, and he waved me through without even checking the packages. (Airport security wasn't as big an issue in those innocent days . . .) We enjoyed the beverages but I don't know what Mick did with the veggies!

SOLANUS CASEY'S (jig)

© BB

The musical score for "Solanus Casey's (jig)" is presented in four staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The chords are indicated above the notes:

- Staff 1: D, Em, G, D, Bm, A
- Staff 2: D, Em, D, F#m7, Bm, G, D
- Staff 3: D, A, G, A, D, Bm, Em
- Staff 4: D, A, G, A, D, Em, A, D

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

After many years of consideration by whoever is in charge of these matters, Capuchin Father Solanus Casey OFM (1870-1957) was beatified in November 2017. Eventually - nothing moves quickly in Rome - Solanus is going to be the first American-Irish saint. Deservedly so: his life and works are models of patience and piety as well as immense love for his Lord, for the Blessed Mother, and for his fellow man. Solanus' biography mentions the fact that he was also a fiddler, but evidently his musical efforts were not always appreciated by his fellow monks! Judging by the brief sound clip on his website, you can kind of understand why . . . He's my "go-to guy" when help is needed. I'm sure he wouldn't mind being yours too. (www.solanuscasy.org)

A SON of the PRAIRIE (reel)

© BB 2007

A Bm A Bm A D A E

A Bm E F#m A Bm E A

A E Bm F#m A D A E

A E Bm F#m A Bm E A

3

A fiddling friend of ours (looking at you, Mark!) is a native of the great state of North Dakota. I've never been out that way but I understand that (in the words attributed to Gertrude Stein) "there's a lot of 'there' there"!

The SOUTH BANK of the SHANNON (jig)

© BB

A E7 F#m D A E7
 A E7 A D E7 A
 E7 A A F#m D A E7
 A Bm A D A Bm E A

The ride along the south bank of the Shannon from Limerick west to Tarbert is a lovely one. We did it on a fine sunny day a number of years ago and were very impressed. There wasn't too much traffic on the road either, which is always nice when you're travelling in an area where you might want to stop and take a few pictures (we did). By the way: I added "Bank" to the title after I discovered an older tune named "South of the Shannon".

The SOUTH SHORE LASSES (reel)

© BB 2011

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

A tip of the hat to fiddler Laura Ridarelli and her talented colleagues! Good music and fine musicians playing it were to be found in abundance on the "South Shore" (= the sixty miles or so between Boston and Cape Cod) in the pre-pandemic days - let's hope everything has returned to normal (or close to it).

SPRING AT LAST! (jig)

© BB

D Bm A G D Em D A
 D Bm A G D G A D
 G D Em D G A Bm A
 D Bm A G D Em7 A D

I don't recall the exact circumstances under which this tune was composed, but I presume it had something to do with the departure of a particularly harsh winter and the arrival of the forsythia, crocuses (or croci), the peepers in the marshy places, and the first sighting here on Cape Cod of cars with out-of-state license plates and bumper stickers proclaiming loyalty to non-New England sports teams. Of course there's no accounting for visitors' tastes but we try to make them (and their money) as welcome as possible. (Sometimes it's not easy.)

The STARFISH (jig)

© BB

The musical score for 'The Starfish' jig is written in treble clef, D major (two sharps), and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains the first four measures, with chords D, G, D, and A7. The second staff contains measures 5-8, with chords D, G, A, D, A7, and D. The third staff contains measures 9-12, with chords Bm, D, Bm, A7, G, and D. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16, with chords D, G, D, Em, D, A7, and D. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth staff.

To a child of three-and-a-half, a starfish found on a beach is a marvellous thing, to be treasured for at least two days.

STEVEN PRIOR'S (jig)

© BB

G F G G F G D
 G F G G Am D G
 G Am G F Dm G D
 G Am G F G Am D G

When this tune was first composed, Steven (my wife's grand-nephew) was a young lad of six or so. Now he's thirty-plus, has a lovely family, and lives on a farm not far from Trim (Co. Meath). It was great to see them all when we were back in Ireland in June 2022.

STEVIE'S BOAT (reel)

Tune 2 of "The Baffin Island Suite"

© BB 2009

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

The "Baffin Island Suite" consists of this tune and two others ("Humors of Kangi" #12127, and "Bears of Baffin", #12018) that were composed to commemorate our good friend and session regular Dave MacAdam's yearly trip way up north to Baffin Island. Dave made these trips for many years and has assembled a great collection of friends and memories (and pictures, of course!).

The STONEHILL FAIR (jig)

© BB

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

Boston's Irish Fair - originally held at Stonehill College in Easton, now at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton - used to draw huge crowds every June. The Chieftains, Solas, De Danann, Cherish the Ladies, and other first-class traditional acts were once featured (and appreciated) over the thirty-plus years of the Fair's existence. But it's been scaled back considerably in recent years - plenty of "Dropkick Murphy" types, but not much trad music any more. Even the legendary "ceili tent" that provided 20+ hours of set dancing on a weekend is history: the ceili has been moved inside and runs one day for a few hours. You hear the word "demographics" a lot. Oh well . . . great days while they lasted!

STROLLING WITH ROSIE (jig)

© BB 2009

A A Bm E
 A D A E A A
 A D A Bm
 A Bm E A A

This tune was written the day after we heard that our first grandchild McKenna Rose (a/k/a/ The World's Most Beautiful Person) had decided to start walking! Time flies (I just made that up!) - Rosie just got her driver's license. Feel old? Who, me?

SUNNYSIDE UP (reel)

© BB

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

The Sunnyside neighborhood of Queens in New York City has always attracted many young people needing a place to live relatively inexpensively. It's a short commute by subway to mid-town and has a lot of quiet streets and well-kept apartments that make living there a very pleasant experience. In my days as a New Yorker, Sunnyside had a sizeable Irish population, I would guess second only to the Bronx in that respect. Of course things have changed a lot over the years, but I'm sure there are still plenty of Irish accents to be heard in Sunnyside even today.

The SUNSET PARK (jig)

© BB

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

Sunset Park is a neighborhood in Brooklyn not far from Prospect Park, which is basically the "center" or Brooklyn. Sunset Park was always of mixed ethnicity when I was growing up a few miles away, and I doubt much has changed (except the house prices, not to be believed by an old Brooklyn guy like me!) Green-wood Cemetery, last resting place for more than one Irish patriot, is located to Sunset Park's northeast - a beautiful tract of quiet green in the middle of a busy city.

The SWANS of GLEN LOUGH (slide)

Tune 2 of "Tracy's Trilogy"

© BB 10/21

G Am D G

G Am G D G

<<

Am G A D7

G Am G D G

The letters of the title (S, G, L) are for the three Gallagher kids - Séamus, Gráinne, and Liadán (in order of age). Glen Lough is in Donegal and probably has zero connection to the family beside the "acronymic" one!

SOME GAVE ALL (hornpipe)

Third tune of the "Cape Cod Veterans" Hornpipe Set

@ BB 3/24

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 7/8 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The third staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Chords are indicated by letters above and below the notes. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of the fourth staff.

Chords: Bm, D, A, G, A, Bm, D, Bm, G, D, A, G, A7, D, Em, D, A, D, D, A, G, A, Bm, F#m, D, A, G, A, F#m, G, Bm, A, Bm, A7, D, Em, D, A, D.

The SWEET SKIES of LOUTH (jig)

© BB

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

Louth is the county that adjoins County Dublin to the north. It seems to be a quiet county whose existence is often overlooked - for example, I couldn't locate any tunes that had "Louth" in the title. Possibly that's due to the fact that the word "Louth" is not particularly pleasant-sounding; the Gaelic version is "Lú", which sounds a lot nicer (and is easier to rhyme in both languages!)