

The TRADITIONAL MUSICIAN'S PRAYER

(WITH APOLOGIES TO ST. FRANCIS)

**LORD, KEEP ALWAYS BEFORE ME
THE APPRECIATION OF MUSIC AS ONE OF YOUR GREATEST GIFTS.
NEVER LET ME STRAY FAR FROM THE TUNE;
HELP ME TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE SPIRITS
OF THOSE MUSICIANS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE
LEAVING THIS LOVELY LEGACY IN MY CARE.**

**LORD, LET ME ALWAYS REMEMBER
WHAT YOUR GOLDEN RULE INSTRUCTS
SO THAT I TREAT OTHER MUSICIANS
AS I WOULD WISH TO BE TREATED MYSELF.**

**LORD, LET ME ALWAYS REMEMBER
THAT YOU GIVE IRISH MUSICIANS A SPECIAL GIFT:
THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRAISE AND GLORIFY YOU
WHILE SITTING AROUND PLAYING JIGS AND REELS
IN DARK PUBS, ON CRUISE SHIPS,
IN KITCHENS, ON CONCERT STAGES.**

**LORD, GIVE ME PATIENCE ALWAYS
AND HELP ME TO REMEMBER
THAT THE WORD "TRADITION"
IMPLIES SHARING.**

**LORD, GIVE ME TOLERANCE ALWAYS
AND HELP ME TO APPRECIATE
THE GREAT MYSTERY:
NOT EVERYBODY LIKES WHAT I LIKE.
NEVER LET ME SLIP TOO FAR INTO SELF-IMPORTANCE
AND HELP ME USE AS NECESSARY
WHATEVER SENSE OF HUMOR
YOU MAY HAVE IMPARTED TO ME.**

**LORD, LET ME NEVER FORGET
THAT I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS
AND THAT THERE'S NOBODY
THAT I CAN'T LEARN FROM
(EVEN BODHRÁN AND BANJO PLAYERS)**

**AND FINALLY, LORD - IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK -
MAKE ME COMPETENT FIRST
THEN RESPECTED
AND EVENTUALLY BRILLIANT.
(BUT YOUR WILL ALWAYS BE DONE.)**

AMEN.

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