

Three dirges and two dances

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Music traditional, arranged by Jon Corelis

An instrumental arrangement of (after a brief introduction) five traditional Irish melodies:
Lament for Owen Roe O'Neill - The dirge of Ossian - Deirdre's Lament -
The Paisteen Fionn - The Merry Old Woman. The piece begins with a brief introduction
of two melodies preserved in Redfern Mason's *The Song Lore of Ireland* (1911), the
first a set of tritones built on a sequence of notes which was reported to W. B. Yeats as
representing the Banshee's Cry, the second a very old wordless Keen.

Of the following airs, Deirdre's Lament is perhaps better known under the
title Fair Isle, The Paisteen Fionn (The Fair-Haired Young Girl) is well known, and
The Merry Old Woman is little known today, though there are some recordings of it extant.

Performance Note: The arrangement allows if desired for the same player to perform both the piccolo and flute parts, changing instruments from piccolo to flute at rehearsal mark E (measure 70) and back from flute to piccolo at rehearsal mark G (measures 113 ff.) A bodhran, played ad lib., may be substituted for tambourine.

*The measures marked **G.P.** may be held ad lib.*

Image: Peasant Funeral in the Mam Turk Mountains of Connemara, Ireland. Harper's Weekly June 1870
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(Banshee's Cry)

♩ = 120 With shrill emphasis

A

Flute

Piccolo *ff*

Violin *ff*

Guitar *s*

Bass Drum

Tambourine

(Keen)

♩ = 44 Mournfully

11 Picc. *f*

G.P. G.P. **B**

Vln.

14 Picc.

6

(Lament for Owen Roe O'Neill)

C ♩ = 48 Solemnly

16

Picc.

Vln.

B. Dr.

21

Picc.

Vln.

B. Dr.

25

Picc.

Vln.

B. Dr.

30

Picc.

Vln.

B. Dr.

32

Picc.

Vln.

B. Dr.

D *(The Dirge of Ossian)*
♩ = 96 Dirgelike

38

Vln.

B. Dr.

47

Vln.

B. Dr.

55

Picc.

Vln.

B. Dr.

63

Picc.

Vln.

B. Dr.

E

(Deirdre's Lament)

♩ = 48 Still mournful but a little gentler

68

Fl.

Picc.

Vln.

Guit.

B. Dr.

8

mf

75

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

8

(The Paisteen Fionn)

Lively but seriously,

with light dance character

F ♩ = 64

79

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

f

83

Fl.

Vln.

Tamb.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piece titled '(The Paisteen Fionn)'. The tempo is marked 'Lively but seriously, with light dance character' at a quarter note equal to 64 beats per minute. The score is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It features four staves: Flute (Fl.), Violin (Vln.), Guitar (Guit.), and Tambourine (Tamb.). The Flute and Violin parts are melodic, with the Violin part including a 'V' marking above a note. The Guitar part consists of a rhythmic accompaniment. The Tambourine part provides a steady rhythmic pattern. The score is divided into two systems, with the first system starting at measure 79 and the second at measure 83. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed below the Tambourine staff in the first system.

88

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

92

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

97

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

102

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

106

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

109

Fl.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

(The Merry Old Woman)

G

113 **♩ = 132 More spirited, with stronger dance character**

Vln. 

Guit. 

Tamb. 

119 Picc. 

Vln. 

Guit. 

Tamb. 

124

Picc.

Guit.

Tamb.

129

Picc.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

134

Picc.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

7

3

8

3

139

Picc.

Guit.

Tamb.

3

3

3

8

3

143

Picc.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

Musical score for measures 143-145. The Piccolo part features a triplet of eighth notes followed by a quarter note, then a series of eighth notes beamed in pairs. The Violin part has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note and eighth notes. The Guitar part includes a triplet of eighth notes and various chords. The Tambourine part has a steady eighth-note pattern.

146

Picc.

Vln.

Guit.

Tamb.

Musical score for measures 146-148. The Piccolo part has a series of eighth notes beamed in pairs. The Violin part has a series of eighth notes beamed in pairs. The Guitar part has chords and eighth notes. The Tambourine part has a steady eighth-note pattern.

About the composer:



Jon Corelis was born in California and grew up in and around Chicago, where he earned a degree in Classical Languages and Literatures at the College of the University of Chicago. He later took a doctorate in Classics at Stanford, and taught Classics and Humanities at Stanford, the University of California, and the University of Minnesota. After a subsequent career as a software specialist in Silicon Valley, he moved to Northeastern Wisconsin. His poetry, criticism, essays, reviews, and translations have been published in books, magazines, newspapers, and web sites in eight countries, and he has given lectures and readings by invitation in America and Europe. He more recently has turned to composing songs and instrumental pieces. His music has been featured on the web site The Flexible Persona and has been performed in concertt by the Wisconsin ensemble a very small consortium.

His web site is: sites.google.com/site/jcorelis