

Humours of Lissadell

Seamus & Manus McGuire



CD-78

1. Brennan's Favorite/Tongs by the Fire - 2:16
2. Hand Me Down the Tackles - 2:23
3. Anach Cuain - 2:24
4. Rose in the Heather/Father Tom's Wager - 2:21
5. Seamus McManus - 2:41
6. Humours of Lissadell/Winter Apples - 3:03
7. Da Slocklit Light/Smith o'Couster/Da Grocer - 4:13
8. O'Mahoney's/McFadden's Handsome Daughter - 3:15
9. Love at the Endings/Ryan's/Maid of Mt. Kisco/Hunter's Purse - 4:45
10. The Banks - 3:03
11. Shaney Mulhern/Morning Sunrise - 2:29
12. Ur Cnoc Cein-Mhic-Cainte - 2:32
13. Lament for President Garfield/Down the Broom - 3:02
14. The Fisherman's Widow/Sweet Biddy Daley - 2:20
15. Derwentwater's Farewell/Larry Redican's - 3:52

Copyright © © 2003
Folk-Legacy Records
Sharon CT 06069
All rights reserved.
Originally released in 1980

*Recorded by Sandy Paton, 1980
Digitally remastered by David Paton, 2003
Photo and graphics by Sandy Paton*

Folk-Legacy Records, Inc.

Box 1148 Sharon CT 06069

1-800-836-0901 www.folklegacy.com folklegacy@snet.net



Seamus & Manus McGuire *Humours of Lissadell*

Folk-Legacy CD-78

Humours of Lissadell

Seamus & Manus McGuire



CD-78

1. Brennan's Favorite/Tongs by the Fire - 2:16
2. Hand Me Down the Tackles - 2:23
3. Anach Cuain - 2:24
4. Rose in the Heather/Father Tom's Wager - 2:21
5. Seamus McManus - 2:41
6. Humours of Lissadell/Winter Apples - 3:03
7. Da Slocklit Light/Smith o'Couster/Da Grocer - 4:13
8. O'Mahoney's/McFadden's Handsome Daughter - 3:15
9. Love at the Endings/Ryan's/Maid of Mt. Kisco/Hunter's Purse - 4:45
10. The Banks - 3:03
11. Shaney Mulhern/Morning Sunrise - 2:29
12. Ur Cnoc Cein-Mhic-Cainte - 2:32
13. Lament for President Garfield/Down the Broom - 3:02
14. The Fisherman's Widow/Sweet Biddy Daley - 2:20
15. Derwentwater's Farewell/Larry Redican's - 3:52

Copyright © © 2003
Folk-Legacy Records
Sharon CT 06069
All rights reserved.
Originally released in 1980



*Recorded by Sandy Paton, 1980
Digitally remastered by David Paton
Photo and graphics by Sandy Paton*

Folk-Legacy Records, Inc.

Box 1148 Sharon CT 06069

1-800-836-0901 www.folklegacy.com



seamus and manus mc guire

humours of Lissadell

NOTES ON THE TUNES

INTRODUCTION

Manus and I had little option in the matter of taking up the fiddle. Our parents are both keen enthusiasts of the instrument and we grew up in Sligo, a place renowned for its traditional fiddling. With records of Michael Coleman, James Morrison, Lad O'Beirne and Sean McGuire constantly playing, and frequent visits to our home by the best of Irish fiddlers, the choice was simple. We had to play, too!

Since then, we have heard and enjoyed many other fiddle styles, including those of the Shetland Islands, Scotland, Cape Breton, the Ottawa Valley and Quebec.

For this album we have selected some of the tunes we most enjoy playing. Naturally, traditional Irish dance tunes predominate, but we couldn't resist including a few "foreign" delights, just for the fun.

Thanks to Sandy and Caroline for their hospitality; to Terry Rudden for his excellent accompaniment; to Ian Robb for his invaluable help in every aspect of recording the album; and to Jack Rooney of Ottawa for providing an ideal setting for some great fiddle sessions.

Seamus McGuire
January, 1980

BRENNAN'S FAVOURITE TONGS BY THE FIRE

(traditional jigs)

Two flowing jigs, both found in *O'Neill's Collection of Irish Dance Music*. The warm, steady jig playing of Andy McGann, a well known Irish-American fiddler, is a definite influence on the style of playing here.

HAND ME DOWN THE TACKLES

(traditional reel; arr. P. McGuire)

Many Irish dance tunes are known by a variety of names, an obvious source of heated discussions and arguments among wandering musicians. This particular reel is also known as "Reidy Johnston" and "Tom Steele." The arrangement played here is a series of variations on the original basic melody and is the work of Paddy McGuire, father of the two fiddlers.

ANACH CUAIN

(Irish slow air)

Anthony Raftery, born in the year 1784 in County Mayo, became one of Ireland's best known minstrels. In his numerous poems and songs he depicted people and events in his native West of Ireland. One of his works, "Anach Cuain," is a haunting song which tells the tale of a drowning tragedy on Loch Corrib in County Galway in which thirty-one people lost their lives. The version played here attempts to capture the feeling of sadness evoked by Raftery's song.

ROSE IN THE HEATHER FATHER TOM'S WAGER

(traditional jigs)

The first jig may be found in *Irish Folk Dance Music* by O'Brien; the second in *O'Neill's Dance Music of Ireland*.

Seamus McMANUS

(Canadian waltz)

This light-hearted Canadian waltz was learned from Joe McIsaac, a Cape Breton fiddler. We were fascinated by the title.

HUMOURS OF LISSADELL WINTER APPLES

(traditional reels)

Lissadell, a rural area of great beauty on the coast of County Sligo, is remembered in the title tune of the album. W. B. Yeats is closely associated with County Sligo, and Lissadell is regarded as the centre of the Yeats Country. History also records that Lissadell was the home of Murdach O'Daly, a famous Irish minstrel at the opening of the thirteenth century.

DA SLOCKLIT LIGHT SMITH O' COUSTER DA GROCER

(composed by Tom Anderson)

Tom Anderson, composer of these three tunes, needs no introduction to fiddle enthusiasts. The first tune in

this set laments the depopulation of Tom's native Eshaness in the Shetland Islands. The two lively reels that follow quickly dispel the sadness.

O'MAHONEY'S McFADDEN'S HANDSOME DAUGHTER

(traditional reels)

"O'Mahoney's" was first heard by the McGuire brothers on a tape by Chicago piano-player, Eleanor Kane. The tape was recorded during one of the many fine music sessions held in the home of the late Lad O'Beirne.

LOVE AT THE ENDINGS RYAN'S MAID OF MT. KISCO HUNTER'S PURSE

The second reel in this medley was composed by Sean Ryan, a fiddler from County Tipperary, who plays in a distinctive, flowing style.

THE BANKS

(traditional hornpipe)

A fiddler's showpiece which separates the men from the boys! Seamus found this hornpipe in Cole's collection of fiddle tunes under the exotic title "Souvenir de Venice," but it was recorded many years ago by Scots Skinner, and later by Michael Coleman, under the title used here.

SHANEY MULHERN MORNING SUNRISE

(reels)

Two intricate fiddle reels in the Irish traditional style. "Morning Sunrise" was composed by Ed Reavy of Philadelphia.

UR CNOC CEIN-MHIC-CAINTE

(Irish slow air)

Peadar O'Doirin, an Irish poet born near Dundalk in 1704, wrote this love poem which was subsequently set to the music played here by Seamus. In the poem, the writer implores his sweetheart to leave her home and return to nature with him.

LAMENT FOR PRESIDENT GARFIELD DOWN THE BROOM

(traditional reels)

Seamus opens this set with an American reel which must be the most cheerful lament ever written. Manus follows with a contrasting Irish reel.

THE FISHERMAN'S WIDOW SWEET BIDDY DALY

(traditional jigs)

Included in the repertoire of every Irish fiddler are these two jigs. The first tune is also known as "The Rambling Pitchfork" and is a standard tune played at dancing contests.

DERWENTWATER'S FAREWELL

(Northumbrian air)

LARRY REDICAN'S

(traditional reel)

This set opens with a beautiful air which the boys first heard played by Grit Laskin on the Northumbrian pipes. Grit is a fellow member of the group "Hang the Piper" (Folk-Legacy FSI-71). Seamus and Manus are joined here by Ian Robb, another member of the group, who plays harmony on concertina.

The second tune is named after Larry Redican, an Irish-American fiddler who originated in the Ballymote area of County Sligo.