

15. Brian O'Linn

The super optimist. A man with an unbounded faith in the future, his middle name should have been serendipity. He is also another aspect of the man Finnegan or Humphrey Chimpden Earwicker.

16. Wild Colonial Boy

Australia's cultural heritage springs directly from the lessons handed down by the first settlers. Contrary to popular belief the men governed by the notorious Captain Bligh in the settlements of Van Diemen's Land were not transported murderers and thieves. A big proportion of the sentenced men were people who had stolen a loaf of bread, a chicken; one man got twenty-eight years for stealing a broom. When I see the Australian trying to shake off what he thinks is an unsavory past, I feel a sense of pity for the mentality of people who refuse to acknowledge the greatness of their forerunners apart from the hundreds of magnificent political intellectuals like John Mitchell who were transported to get them away from the rebellion in Ireland. Ned Kelly was anything but a rogue. He was a man fighting against the most oppressive conditions known outside England. His fight against the petty British officialdom of Australia is one to be remembered everywhere with pride. Whether the song does him justice or not I don't know; after all I can only sing what people have written.

Notes by STEVE BENBOW

Cover Photo By SYLVIA PITCHER

STEVE BENBOW: *Vocals / Guitar*

DENNY WRIGHT: *Guitar*

DAVE COUSINS: *Banjo*

JACK FALLON: *Bass*

THE STRAWBERRY HILL BOYS: *(Vocals)*

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SONGS^{OF} IRELAND

MONITOR PRESENTS STEVE BENBOW WITH THE STRAWBERRY HILL BOYS



A MONITOR INTERNATIONAL COMPACT DISC

SONGS OF IRELAND

Monitor Presents Steve Benbow with the Strawberry Hill Boys

1. O'Reilly's Daughter

One of the main characters in Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* is Mr. Persse O'Reilly, alias Humphrey Chimden Earwicker, alias Mr. Porter and comprehensively—from a name derived from his initials—Here Comes Everybody. He is, in embodiment, a character microcosm of humanity. Song, Joyce used thematically because the song in the mind of all and yet never on the lips is a subconscious expression of a state of mind; by tone we distinguish just as a child knows friend from foe. "O'Reilly's Daughter" is man at his asexual worst.

2. Banks of the Roses

The runaway was the old Irish word for our present "layabout." If a man decided against slaving his guts out for someone in his hometown he ran to the big city in search of something better.

3. Bould Thady Quill

On Peter Sellers record about Balham, Gateway to the South, everybody, it seems, is called Quill. Great idiots they are and it would seem that Mr. Sellers had the unfortunate experience of meeting somebody of that patronym. The "Original Thady Quill" as he was called in his hometown of Cork, Ireland, was the real village idiot, but some wag decided to paint him conversely. So we have a real fourteen carat nut behaving like Horatio.

4. Little Beggar Man

The 'Oul Lamas Fair in Ballycastle O' is the tune used here for the "Little Beggar Man." Nobody has much sympathy for a poor man if he be strapping and big. So if you want to steal be a bit like Lautrec, for begging is stealing your own dignity from yourself.

5. Mush, Mush

A popular Irish song not popular with the Irish in the tradition of Johnny Patterson, one time a clown with Batty's Irish Circus. Not much harm in it really.

6. Spanish Lady

This version I sing by Dominic Behan who tells me that the only Spaniard ever to set foot on Ireland was a picture of King Phillip.

7. I'm A Rambler

Irish version of American Moonshine song made popular by Delia Murphy.

8. Holy Ground

Cobh Harbour, County Cork, is traditionally regarded as the Holy Ground. This beautiful and robust love song was taken over lately by that marauding cultural band of music savages the pop folk groups and rendered positively obscene in sound. I try to give it here as I first heard it.

9. The Irish Rover

If your country doesn't have a Navy, abuse it. Much safer to denigrate what you don't possess. Typical Irish humor about shortcomings.

10. She Moved Through the Fair

Attributed to Padraic Colum but much older. One of the really great songs of Ireland.

11. Finnegan's Wake

A nineteenth century ballad on the life, death and resurrection of a Dublin hod-carrier. On this song, Dominic Behan tells me, James Joyce based his somewhat inexplicable novel, "Finnegan's Wake." Death and resurrection is a theme fascinating to Irish writers, possibly because of the political structure of the country. With her revolution per decade, Ireland was beaten but seldom defeated.

12. Green Grows the Laurel

A children's street song sung by children from streets all over the British Isles.

13. Brennan on the Moor

The Raparees were men dispossessed by order of King John before and after Magna Carta, a deed granting freedom and permanence of tenure to the Norman barons of Ireland, but reducing the native Irish to serfdom. They—the Raparees—were the forerunners of Dick Turpin, Ned Kelly and such like, though Brennan had also a strong political motive in view when robbing the rich. He was taking back what was his own by heritage. Turpin took a share of what should have been his by mere right.

14. Hot Asphalt

A stage Irish slander on the emigrant Irish labourer. I only include it here because it has some historic significance.

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|--------------------------------------|------|
| 1. O'REILLY'S DAUGHTER | 2:00 |
| 2. BANKS OF THE ROSES | 1:50 |
| 3. BOULD THADY QUILL | 2:25 |
| 4. LITTLE BEGGAR MAN | 2:30 |
| 5. MUSH, MUSH | 2:45 |
| 6. SPANISH LADY | 2:25 |
| 7. I'M A RAMBLER | 2:00 |
| 8. HOLY GROUND | 3:25 |
| 9. THE IRISH ROVER | 2:15 |
| 10. SHE MOVED THROUGH THE FAIR | 1:50 |
| 11. FINNEGAN'S WAKE | 2:40 |
| 12. GREEN GROWS THE LAUREL | 2:30 |
| 13. BRENNAN ON THE MOOR | 2:45 |
| 14. HOT ASPHALT | 2:50 |
| 15. BRIAN O'LINN | 2:30 |
| 16. WILD COLONIAL BOY | 3:05 |

Total Playing Time: 39:35



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