Providing Open Access to Irish Music: The Séamus Connolly Collection of Irish Music at Boston College

Anna Kijas
Elizabeth Sweeney
New England Music Library Association @ MIT
June 2, 2017
Thomas Reilly, Clerk of Fore

Rev. John Quinn from County Leitrim sent me this tune in the 1980s. It was a copy of handwritten music from The Mulvey Manuscript. Stephen Grier wrote...

Bells of Congress, The

The Bells of Congress were presented to the United States by the Ditchley Foundation of Great Britain in 1976. A replica of the bells in London’s...
COLLABORATION ACROSS LIBRARIES

Digital Library Programs
Digital Scholarship
Library Assessment & Outreach
Metadata Creation & Management
Scholarly Communication & Research Services
Irish Music Archives / Special Collections
Systems & Applications
OMEKA BUILDING BLOCKS

- Item records (Dublin Core)
- Collections
- Exhibits
- Simple pages (HTML pages)
MR. AND MRS. TED MCGRAW

Story
I have known Ted and Bridget McGraw of Rochester, New York, since the 1980s. I have great memories of playing with Ted in The Village Coachhouse, in Brookline, Massachusetts, a veritable musical institution that was owned by the Varian family of Cork. Here Ted recounts how he came to have a tune written for him and Bridgie by Jimmy Shand, Jr., renowned Scottish accordionist, composer, and accordion tuner: "We were in Scotland in '86 heading out of Auchtermuchty looking for Jimmy Shand's house when I spotted Jimmy Jr. standing by his gate across the road. He was instantly recognizable from his record jackets. His famous father was adjudicating somewhere up the country so Jimmy Jr. graciously invited us in for a chat. When I saw his shop I immediately asked if he could convert an old Hohner Club Morino to Irish tuning. The bargain was made and even at that time, it was difficult to match the quality of 'Arliste' reeds, so about a year later the box came back to me in Rochester with the tune enclosed, dated Oct. '87. The tone quality of the box, by the way, was beautiful! The jig is played here for us by Josephine Keegan on fiddle and piano.

Creator
Keegan, Josephine (fiddle, piano) 72741909 VIA EDR
Shand, Jimmy, Jr. (composer)

Subject
Folk dance music--Ireland
Jigs
Fiddlers--Ireland
McGraw, Ted
McGraw, Bridget
Shand, Jimmy, Jr.

Publisher
Seamus Connolly
Boston College Libraries

View all items by
Keegan, Josephine
Shand, Jimmy, Jr.

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Song & Tune Type
Jig

Part of:
Playlist 05

Citation
Keegan, Josephine (fiddle, piano) and Shand, Jimmy, Jr. (composer), "Mr. and Mrs. Ted McGraw," The Seamus Connolly Collection of Irish Music, accessed November 18, 2016, https://connollymusiccollection.bc.edu/document/48
The Boston College Libraries are delighted to present The Séamus Connolly Collection of Irish Music. This digital collection features traditional tunes and songs collected by master fiddle player Séamus Connolly, Sullivan Artist in Residence in Music.
USAGE STATISTICS

- Sessions: 13,260
- Users: 7,658
- Pageviews: 96,016
- Pages / Session: 7.24
- Avg. Session Duration: 00:05:40
- Bounce Rate: 43.06%
- % New Sessions: 57.64%

Stats:
- Plays: 48.8K
- Likes: 154
- Comments: 3
- Reposts: 5
- Downloads: 4,295
- RSS downloads: 0

Left to right: Google Analytics Dashboard; SoundCloud Dashboard
ABOUT THE TUNES

More than half of the audio tracks in the digital collection are new interpretations of older tunes.

Contemporary tunes and songs represent yet another significant component of the collection.
MRS. GALVIN'S BARNDANCE

Story
The fiddle playing of Mrs. Ellen Galvin, who was born in the 1880s, certainly did sound as though it were from an earlier time in history. I remember seeing her perform in a concert in West Clare in the late 1960s. I was enthralled with her music then, and I still am. The tune transcribed here was recorded and collected from Mrs. Galvin, and a copy of the tape was passed along to me by accordion master Tony MacMahon. Thanks, Tony! My friends Barbara MacDonald Magone and Kevin McElroy helped out on the recording you are about to hear.

We shall hear Barbara play some of her own compositions (Banora-Fraser House, The Reel Bus, and A Riverview Cabin) as we venture through this collection.

Creator
McElroy, Kevin (banjo) 70994386 VIAF ID
Connolly, Séamus (fiddle) 33682623 VIAF ID
Magone, Barbara MacDonald (piano) 53996920 VIAF ID

Subject
Folk dance music—Ireland
Banjo music—Ireland
Fiddle tunes—Ireland
Barndances
Galvin, Ellen
MacMahon, Tony 171508158 VIAF ID

Publisher
Séamus Connolly
Boston College Libraries

View all items by
McElroy, Kevin
Connolly, Séamus
Magone, Barbara MacDonald

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https://connollymusiccollection.bc.edu/document/461
MRS. GALVIN’S BARNDANCE

Source recording played by Mrs. Ellen Galvin of Co. Clare on fiddle, likely early 1960s
MRS. GALVIN’S BARNDANCE

New performance by Kevin McElroy, Séamus Connolly, and Barbara MacDonald Magone
DUNBOYNE STRAW-PLAITERS

Story
The reel played here by Jerry O'Sullivan is another tune from the music of Boston’s Dan Sullivan’s Shamrock Band. Nicky McAuliffe told me that the tune is in P.W. Joyce’s collection, Old Irish Folk Music and Songs. Nicky, you are a walking encyclopedia!

Creator
O’Sullivan, Jerry (uilleann pipes) 31619251 VIAF ID

Subject
Folk dance music—Ireland
Reels (Music)
Uilleann pipe music—Ireland
Sullivan, Dan 65878208 VIAF ID
McAuliffe, Nicholas

Publisher
Seamus Connolly
Boston College Libraries

View all items by
O’Sullivan, Jerry

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Dunboyne Straw-Plaiters

Reel

Song & Tune Type
Reels

Part of:
Playlist 04

Citation
DUNBOYNE STRAW-PLAITERS

Source recording -- played by Dan Sullivan’s Shamrock Band, circa 1926
DUNBOYNE STRAW-PLAITERS

New performance by Jerry O’Sullivan on uilleann pipes
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

• Assessment of the rights landscape
• Revising permissions from performers signed prior to 2015
• Balancing the transactional aspect of the release form with the social nature of the project.
• Corrections & Editorial policy
• Tweaks to website
• Determining whether the collection is static or dynamic
CHALLENGES & THINGS WE LEARNED

- Managing expectations
- Unanticipated tasks and extended deadlines
- Site functionality
- Audio presentation to accommodate users
- Indexing and search query anomalies
- Publicity and marketing
FUTURE WORK

Use metadata to identify and represent relationships between musicians using linked open data (LOD) vocabularies and ontologies. Use linked open data to connect our metadata with information available elsewhere on the semantic web through sources such as Wikipedia, MusicBrainz, and VIAF. Present the relationships in a dynamic network graph visualization.

## BI-DIRECTIONAL RELATIONSHIP METADATA

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PRESENT THE RELATIONSHIPS IN A DYNAMIC NETWORK GRAPH VISUALIZATION
THANK YOU

Anna Kijas, Senior Digital Scholarship Librarian (anna.kijas@bc.edu)

Elizabeth Sweeney, Irish Music Librarian (elizabeth.sweeney@bc.edu)

Find more details about Digital Scholarship projects and events at ds.bc.edu
An additional note of thanks …

… to the musicians, composers, and other content creators who so generously contributed to the Connolly collection.