

IRISH MUSIC PACKET



**Fun facts about
Irish Songs**



Song Lyrics



**Suggestions for
Movement &
Music**



**"Lawrence Welk
the Irish Show"**

Irish Song YouTube Playlist

<http://bit.ly/AllegralrishSongs>

Fun Facts

1. Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral

"Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral (That's an Irish Lullaby)" is a classic Irish-American song that was originally written in 1913 by composer James Royce Shannon (1881–1946) for the Tin Pan Alley musical *Shameen Dhu*. The original recording of the song, by Chauncey Olcott, peaked at #1 on the music charts. The song was brought back to prominence by Bing Crosby's performance in 1944's *Going My Way*. Crosby's single sold over a million copies and peaked at #4 on the Billboard music charts.

Lyrics

1. Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

Too-ra-loo-ra-li

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

Hush now, don't you cry

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

Too-ra-loo-ra-li

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

That's an Irish lullaby

Over in Killarney, many years ago

My mother sang a song to me in tones so soft and low

Just a simple little ditty in her good old Irish way

And I'd give the world if I could hear that song of hers today

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

Too-ra-loo-ra-li

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

Hush now, don't you cry

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

Too-ra-loo-ra-li

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral

That's an Irish lullaby

Fun Facts

2. I'm Looking for a Four Leaf Clover

"I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover" is a song from 1927, which was written by Mort Dixon with music by Harry M. Woods. Original hit recordings were made in 1927 by Nick Lucas, Ben Bernie, and Jean Goldkette. Penned in 1927 by Mort Dixon (lyrics) and Harry M. Woods (music), the song became a hit that same year with the release of recordings by Nick Lucas, Ben Bernie, and Jean Goldkette. The song was then revived in 1948 by several artists, most notably Art Mooney, whose recording topped the charts for 18 weeks.

In modern times the song is perhaps most associated with Merrie Melodies cartoons, as it appeared in several of them, and a common tune played by the string bands in Philadelphia's Mummers Parade. The Sons of Ben, the official supporters' group of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union, have adopted the song as one of their chants, singing at every home match at the 20 minute, ten second mark, symbolic as the founding year of the Union.

Lyrics

2. I'm Looking for a Four Leaf Clover

I'm looking over a four-leaf clover
That I overlooked before
One leaf is sunshine, the second is rain
The third is the roses that grow in the lane

No need explaining, the one remaining
Is somebody I adore

I'm looking over a four-leaf clover
That I overlooked before

I'm looking over a four-leaf clover
That I overlooked before
One leaf is sunshine, the second is rain
The third is the roses that grow in the lane

No need explaining, the one remaining
Is somebody I adore

I'm looking over a four-leaf clover
That I overlooked before

Fun Facts

3. Danny Boy

"Danny Boy" is a ballad, written by English songwriter Frederic Weatherly in 1913, and set to the traditional Irish melody of "Londonderry Air". In Bath, Somerset in 1910, English lawyer and lyricist Frederic Weatherly initially wrote the words to "Danny Boy" to a tune other than "Londonderry Air". After his Irish-born sister-in-law Margaret in the United States sent him a copy of "Londonderry Air" in 1913 (an alternative version of the story has her singing the air to him in 1912 with different lyrics), Weatherly modified the lyrics of "Danny Boy" to fit the rhyme and meter of "Londonderry Air".

Weatherly gave the song to the vocalist Elsie Griffin, who made it one of the most popular songs in the new century. In 1915, Ernestine Schumann-Heink produced the first recording of "Danny Boy".

Jane Ross of Limavady is credited with collecting the melody of "Londonderry Air" in the mid-19th century from a musician she encountered.

Various suggestions exist as to the true meaning of "Danny Boy". Some have interpreted the song to be a message from a parent to a son going off to a war or uprising (as suggested by the reference to "pipes calling glen to glen") or leaving as part of the Irish diaspora.

Lyrics

3. Danny Boy

Oh, Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
From glen to glen, and down the mountain side.
The summer's gone, and all the roses falling,
'tis you, 'tis you must go and I must bide.

But come ye back when summer's in the meadow,
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow,
And I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow,
Oh, Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so!

But when he come and all the flowers are dying,
If I am dead, as dead I well may be,
You'll come and find the place where I am lying,
And kneel and say an Ave there for me.

And I shall hear, though soft you tread above me,
And then my grave will warmer, sweeter be,
For you will bend and tell me that you love me,
And I shall sleep in peace until you come to me.

Let's Move!

Irish Jig

One of the most popular traditional Irish dances is the Irish Jig!

The jig is a celtic dance which takes its name from the type of music to which it is danced, also called a 'jig.' The music takes its name from the French word 'gigue,' which is an older word for a fiddle. Therefore, an Irish jig is one of many cultural dances that is done to fiddle music, specifically, Celtic fiddle music. There are Irish and Scottish variants of jig music, but the most well known of the jigs is the Irish jig.

An Irish jig is done to jig fiddle music, which often has a beat of 6/8. There are other beats that are still considered to be jigs as well; however, the most common jig music/dance is one of a 6/8 beat. A jig is danced with a lot of hopping, making it into a joyful dance; jigs are often danced at weddings and other types of celebrations.

Irish Jig Movement

4. Whiskey in a Jar

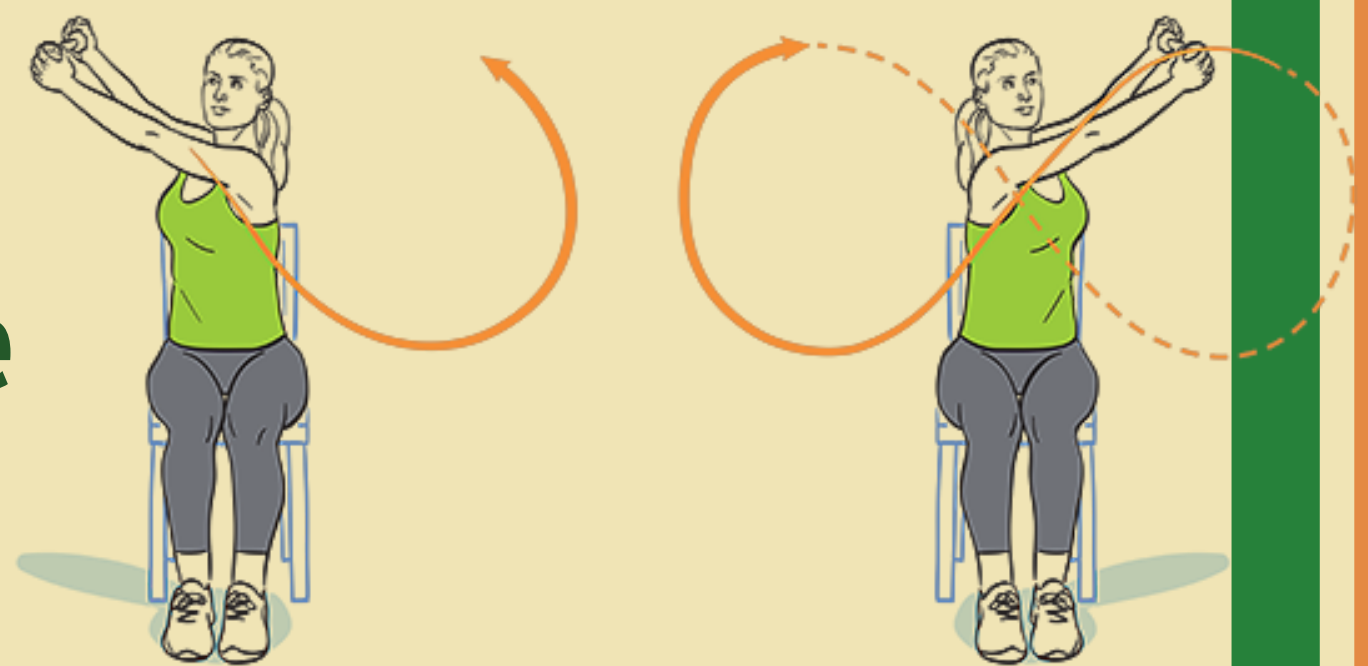
Stomp your feet



Alternate kicking legs out



Sway upper body side to side



Raise arms above head



Shimmy (move your shoulders!)

Fun Facts

5. When Irish Eyes are Smiling

"When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" is a lighthearted song in tribute to Ireland. Its lyrics were written by Chauncey Olcott and George Graff, Jr., set to music composed by Ernest Ball, for Olcott's production of *The Isle O' Dreams*, and Olcott sang the song in the show. It was first published in 1912, at a time when songs in tribute to a romanticized Ireland were very numerous and popular both in Britain and the United States. During the First World War the famous tenor John McCormack recorded the song.

The song continued to be a familiar standard for generations. Decades later it was used as the opening song on the radio show *Duffy's Tavern*. The song has been recorded on over 200 singles and albums and by many famous singers, including Bing Crosby, Connie Francis, and Roger Whittaker.

Lyrics

5. *When Irish Eyes are Smiling*

When Irish eyes are smiling
Sure, it is like a morning spring
In the lilt of Irish laughter
You can hear the angels sing

When Irish hearts are happy
All the world seems bright and gay
And when Irish eyes are smiling
Sure, they steal your heart away

When Irish hearts are happy
All the world seems bright and gay
And when Irish eyes are smiling
Sure they steal your heart away

Fun Facts

6. I'll Take You Home Kathleen

"I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen" is well-known for being one of the most popular songs in the traditional Irish music ballad repertoire, but as it turns out, the song was not originally Irish. It was, in fact, written in 1875 by one Thomas Paine Westendorf, an American of German descent, for his wife, Jenny.

The song was written as a "response" to (and thus in a similar style as) the song "Barney, Take Me Home Again," a popular song of the era. Despite its origins, Westendorf struck a romantic chord in the hearts of some Irish music-lovers with his use of the popular Irish feminine name "Kathleen" as well as his use of poetic Irish-ish (for lack of a better term) language, all describing the wistful thoughts of home shared by so many immigrants, and the song quickly entered the repertoire of Irish folk singers on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as plenty of pop singers, including Elvis Presley.

Lyrics

6. I'll Take You Home Kathleen

I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen
across the ocean wild and wide
to where your heart has ever been
since first you were my bonny bride

The roses all have left your cheeks
I watched them fade away and die
Your voice is sad when you speak
and tears bedim your loving eyes

So I will take you back Kathleen
to where your heart will feel no pain
And when the fields are fresh and green
I will take you to your home again

I know you love me Kathleen dear
your heart was ever fond and true
I always feel when you are near
That life holds nothing dear but you

The smiles that once you gave to me
I scarcely ever see them now
the many, many times I see
a darkening shadow on your brow

Oh So I will take you back Kathleen
to where your heart will feel no pain
And when the fields are fresh and green
I will take you to your home again

To that dear home beyond the sea
My Kathleen shall again return
And when thy old friends welcome thee
Thy loving heart will cease to yearn

Where laughs the little silver stream
beside your mother's humble cot
and brightest rays of sunshine gleam
To where your grief will be forgot

So I will take you back Kathleen
to where your heart will feel no pain
And when the fields are fresh and green
I will take you to your home again

Fun Facts

7. Galway Bay

The first "Galway Bay," known to those living in and around Galway Bay, Ireland as "(My Own Dear) Galway Bay," was written by Frank A. Fahy (1854–1935). It's been a folk favorite ever since, with the most highly regarded recording of it being Dolores Keane's.

The version best known outside of Galway Bay was written by Arthur Colahan in 1947 and recorded by Bing Crosby on November 27 of that same year. Driven largely by its popularity among Irish immigrants, the song rose to #3 in the States on Billboard's Retailers Pick chart.

The original lyrics were more political, including a reference to English occupation with the line, "Speak a language that the English do not know." Crosby changed it to, "Speak a language that the strangers do not know" to be less politically controversial.

"Galway Bay" is an idyllic song full of pastoral imagery; it's easy to see how it appealed the nostalgia and sentimentality of Irish immigrants. Box and Cox Publications of London, England, hold the copyright to this song. The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem recorded a humorous version of the song. Ruby Miller covered Crosby's version on 1955's *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*.

Lyrics

7. Galway Bay

If you ever go across the sea to Ireland
Then maybe at the closing of your day;
You will sit and watch the moonrise over Claddagh

And see the sun go down on Galway Bay
Just to hear again the ripple of the trout stream
The women in the meadows making hay;

And to sit beside a turf fire in the cabin
And watch the barefoot gossoons at their play
For the breezes blowing o'er the seas from Ireland

Are perfum'd by the heather as they blow;
And the women in the uplands diggin' praties
Speak a language that the strangers do not know
For the strangers came and tried to teach their way
They scorn'd us just for being what we are;

But they might as well go chasing after moonbeams
Or light a penny candle from a star
And if there is going to be a life hereafter
And somehow I am sure there's going to be;
I will ask my God to let me make my heaven
In that dear land across the Irish sea

Irish Show

8. The Lawrence Welk "Irish Show"



The Lawrence Welk Show was an American televised musical variety show hosted by big band leader Lawrence Welk. The series aired locally in Los Angeles for four years, from 1951 to 1955, then nationally for another 16 years on ABC from 1955 to 1971, followed by 11 years in first-run syndication from 1971 to 1982. Repeat episodes are broadcast in the United States by Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations. These airings incorporate an original program—usually, a color broadcast from 1965 to 1982—in its entirety.

Enjoy watching this Lawrence Welk Irish episode from 1979 featuring Irish classics! (You can find the video at the bottom of the YouTube playlist). Enjoy!