

GREY LARSEN & PADDY LEAGUE



DARK OF THE MOON

For additional notes on this music, visit:
www.greylarsen.com.

**1 The Cat that Ate the Candle /
Petticoat Loop / The Corry Boys (3:29)**

Flute, guitar, and bodhrán

THREE UNUSUAL “crooked” reels, with extra beats added to the normal structure (dancers beware!). The first comes from Dublin piper Tommy Reck, the second from Co. Donegal fiddler Johnny Doherty, and the third from Co. Leitrim flute player John McKenna, who was an active recording artist in the New York City Irish-American music scene of the 1920s.

2 John Stenson's Reel / Palm Sunday (5:00)

Flute and guitar

JOHN STENSON'S REEL, a Northern tune, is normally played quite fast in the key of A. We've recast it here in G and encouraged it to slow down a bit. **Palm Sunday** is a lyrical jig we learned from fiddler Kevin Burke.

**3 Michael J. Kennedy Jigs: Untitled /
Untitled / Haste to the Wedding (4:51)**

Anglo concertina, guitar, harmonium, and bodhrán

THREE JIGS from Co. Galway melodeon player Michael J. Kennedy (1900–1978), who had one of the most interesting repertoires of any Irish musician we've ever known. The first two jigs are crooked—this time having fewer beats than normal—and the third is a rare Galway version of the well-known jig **Haste to the Wedding**. Our first CD, **The Green House**, contains three 1976 recordings of Michael playing and reminiscing. Hup, a Mhicheal!

4 The Blackbird / The Gold Ring (6:41)

Flute, harmonium, and bodhrán

THE BLACKBIRD is one of the oldest Irish airs still commonly played today—so old, in fact, that it seems to have lost its words (if indeed it ever had any) and now exists purely as an instrumental piece. Some conjecture that the title refers to Napoleon Bonaparte, who at one time was Ireland's hoped-for liberator. Likewise, **The Gold Ring** is presumably one of the oldest extant Irish dance tunes—according to legend, an otherworldly reward to a scrupulous piper.

**5 Michael J. Kennedy Schottisches:
Untitled / Untitled / Pretty Molly Brannigan (4:46)**

Low G tin whistle and guitar

THREE MORE TUNES from Michael J. Kennedy. The first schottische is crooked, and intriguingly ambiguous as to where the melody begins, so we've tried two different departure points. Michael's version of **Pretty Molly Brannigan**, a common song of unrequited love, has an unexpected turn that suggests an older sense of modality.

**6 Another Jig Will Do / The Ship Doctor /
I'm the Boy for Bewitching Them (3:32)**

Flute and guitar

THREE SLIP JIGS. We found **The Ship Doctor (An Dochtuir Loinge)** in Breandán Breathnach's **Ceol Rince na hÉireann**. The last tune comes from the fiddling of Seamus Connolly, and bears one of the most self-affirming titles in Irish music.

7 Sliabh Geal gCua na Feile /

The Drunken Gauger (6:30)

Anglo concertina and harmonium

THE FIRST TUNE is the air of **Sliabh Geal gCua na Feile (Bright Beautiful Mount Cua)**, a song in the Irish language composed in 1890 by Pádraig Ó Máille. Ó Máille had left his home in the West of Ireland to work in the coalmines of Wales. The lyrics tell of the emigrant's loneliness, homesickness, and despair. **The Drunken Gauger**, on the other hand, is an old set dance from West Clare which celebrates a (sadly) defunct profession involving pub-hopping government employees. The tune is associated with two late legendary West Clare fiddlers—Bobby Casey and Junior Crehan, who surreptitiously learned it from a traveling dancing-master. Thanks to Kevin Crehan for the yarn.

8 Thugamar Fein an Samhradh Linn (We Brought the Summer with Us) (4:08)

Guitar solo

A SUMMER CAROL from Munster. For Michaux.

Samhradh, samhradh, bainne na ngamhna
Summer, summer, the milk of the calves
Thugamar fein an samhradh linn
We brought the summer garland with us
Samhradh bui na noinin glegeal
Yellow summer of the bright daisies
Thugamar fein an samhradh linn
We brought the summer with us

9 The Day I Met Tom Moylan / Josie McDermott's / The Colliers' Reel (5:37)

Anglo concertina and guitar

THREE REELS that call to mind Tom Byrne and Tom McCaffrey, two immigrants from Counties

Sligo and Leitrim to Cleveland, Ohio from whom Grey learned much of his music. Their setting of the first tune, a version of **Man of the House**, has an uncommon chromatic turn that inspired our arrangement of this selection. Grey learned the second tune on a 1979 visit to the home of Co. Sligo flute and saxophone player Josie McDermott, a neighbor of Byrne's in Ireland, and memorized it while enjoying a lift on the back of Tom Byrne's brother's tractor. Byrne, who had been a coalminer (i.e. collier) in Co. Sligo, gave us this setting of **The Colliers' Reel**.

10 The Slopes of Mount Storm / Hurry the Jug / Dark of the Moon (7:47)

Flute, guitar, and harmonium

GREY COMPOSED the first tune and named it for his favorite childhood sledding slopes. **Hurry the Jug**, an old set dance, comes from fiddler Tom McCaffrey. Normally played in E Dorian, Grey plays it here in G Dorian. **Dark of the Moon** is another composition of Grey's. Its title refers to the waning, darkening phase of the moon and the mysteries of Southern Indiana moonlore. More on this at www.greylarsen.com.

11 Child of My Heart / The Star Above the Garter / My Love in the Morning (3:48)

Flute, guitar, and harmonium

TWO BEAUTIFUL SINGLE JIGS on either side of a famous slide from Sliabh Luachra, the Cork/Kerry border region. We learned **Child of My Heart** from Capt. Francis O'Neill's *1001 Gems, The Dance Music of Ireland*, and **My Love in the Morning** from Breandán Breathnach's *Ceol Rince na hÉireann*. The title of the second tune has to do with heraldry.

DARK OF THE MOON

PRODUCED BY GREY LARSEN AND PADDY LEAGUE

Recorded and mixed by Grey Larsen at Sleepy Creek Recording, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, June through October 2002

Mastered by Mark Hood at GreyLarsen Mastering, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, December 2002

Photos of Grey and Paddy by Irene Young, www.ireneyoungfoto.com

Front moon photo by Cosmo Condina

Back moon photo by Mark Oatney

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Also by Grey Larsen & Paddy League: *The Green House*, Sleepy Creek Music SCM 102

To purchase this and other recordings by Grey Larsen & Paddy League, as well as *The Essential Guide to Irish Flute & Tin Whistle*, *The Essential Irish Tin Whistle Toolbox*, and Grey's other Irish flute and tin whistle books, visit:

www.greylarsen.com

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Heartfelt thanks to: Ariel Balter, Kevin Burke, Tom Byrne, Seamus Connolly, Kevin Crehan, James Kelly, Michael J. Kennedy, Karen Krieger, Michaux Lowry, André Marchand, Tom McCaffrey, Josie McDermott, and Tommy Reck

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GREY LARSEN:

Irish flute, tin whistle, anglo concertina, and harmonium

PADDY LEAGUE:

Bodhrán, guitar, and anglo concertina on track 7

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