

One Bright March Morning

1. Carrick-a-Rede (C. Ryan)
2. Jewels Of The Ocean/ Suzie's Reel (Trad/ D. Mosher)
3. Star Of The Bar (D. Robertson)
4. Is The Big Man Within?/The Frost Is All Over/The Rosy Cross (Trad/ M. Scott/S. Shannon)
5. Caledonia (D. MacLean)
6. The Gentle Maiden/ Swerving For Bunnies (Trad/ A. Robertson)
7. The Star Of The County Down (Trad/lyrics by Cathal McGarvey)
8. The Lakes Of Ponchartrain (Trad)
9. Galway Girl (Steve Earle)
10. The Wind That Shakes The Barley (Trad)
11. Follow The Heron Home (K. Polwart)
12. There's The Day/ When The Cock Crows It Is Day (Trad)

Carrick-a-Rede. The rope bridge is on the north Antrim coast about an hour north of Belfast, near Bushmills Distillery and the Giant's Causeway. Be sure to visit the distillery after the other two sites if you want to make it home in one piece. Cathie Ryan from Detroit, Michigan, now residing in Co. Louth in Ireland wrote this lovely song about the bridge, about romance and about the sea's loud roar.

Jewels of the Ocean, featuring Fred on the low whistle, continues the nautical theme and is followed by a reel written by David honoring his mother, Suzie.

Star of the Bar. We first heard this song done by an amazing band from Scotland, Old Blind Dogs. It details what an Edinburgh man looks for in a woman – someone who can “sing a fine tune, pass the glass round and drink herself blind.” There was a woman from Edinburgh in the audience one night and, when I posed the question over the microphone about what Scottish men wanted in a woman, without hesitation she called out that they want somebody who can hold their liquor. A special thanks to Aaron Jones of Old Blind Dogs who helped us with some of the vocabulary of the song.*

*Stravaiged (strolled/wandered), Dubs (puddles), Cadged many a sub (borrowed money frequently), Kent (knew).

Is the Big Man Within, a lovely tune in 9/8 and 6/8 that Fred picked up from listening to Altan. One night in Muskegon Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh told us that she was told that it was a “conversation” between a man and a woman. We decided the woman must have had the 9/8 part. This morphs into **The Frost Is All Over**, a well-known piece and bringing up the rear is a lively piece from the great Sharon Shannon appended to Mike Scott's song, **The Rosy Cross**.

Dougie McLean's anthem **Caledonia** gets a very nice treatment by David on guitar and vocals. Although a much recorded song, we felt obliged to include it because of the many requests from concert goers.

With **The Gentle Maiden** Fred gives us a lovely piano piece followed by a very lively slip jig, **Swerving For Bunnies** a tune composed by Allie Robertson who in fact ended up in a ditch with a van load of musicians and gear having in fact swerved for bunnies.

Star of the County Down was taught to Richard by Mr. McHugh, his primary 5 teacher at St. Mary's Star of the Sea on the Shore Road in Belfast. The kids didn't have much of a clue what was going on but Richard says he still remembers how his teacher would belt out "young Rosy McCann from the banks of the Bann" with remarkable fervour. What do ten year-olds know?

The Lakes of Ponchartrain isn't from Ireland but it is enormously popular and has been recorded by some of the best, so we decided to join them. It is worth looking into the song's origin. There is too much to tell here so we'll let you find it all out for yourself.

Steve Earle, like many American country stars, eventually made his way over to Ireland and was warmly received. **Galway Girl** was composed by him in collaboration with Sharon Shannon and has been a huge hit in Ireland and in America too probably due in part to its inclusion in a very successful movie called **P.S. I love You**.

Gary has a knack for taking traditional Irish tunes and giving them a fresh new treatment on the guitar. **The Wind That Shakes The Barley** is his latest offering, an arrangement of a well-known tune with some nice picking. Some tasty mandolin and percussion backing allows it to pair nicely with a Guinness in Galway or a piña colada in Punta Cana.

The sentiments in **Follow The Heron Home** by Karine Polwart will be very familiar to anyone who has ever tired of a long winter, can hardly wait for the light to "linger long by the door" and who has made their way home from an all-night session just as dawn arrives. Of course what Scottish song would be complete without at least one word that nobody else understands? The 'gowans' mentioned in the first verse are daisies. I know, we don't get it either. If you don't find yourself singing along with this wonderful chorus, something's wrong.

Cahal McConnell from County Fermanagh gives us this loose translation of a Donegal song, Nil na lá. He calls it **There's The Day**. The audiences at our live shows really enjoy taking over the chorus from us and they seem to take particular delight in Dennis' verse which laments the loss of shoes, britches et al. Fred chose **When The Cock Crows It Is Day** to round out yet another song about yet another all-nighter and the whitening of the day.

We hope you enjoy it.

The Band:

Dennis Green

Fred Klein

Richard McMullan

Gary McMullen

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