

# The BLACKBIRD and the HEN

O'Neill collection

*mm* ~ 80

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piece features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several first and second endings marked with '1' and '2' above the staff. The score concludes with a final cadence consisting of two eighth notes.

This lovely little piece is from the O'Neill's "1850" collection (number of tunes, not the year of publication). It was evidently recorded as a waltz by banjo player Mick Moloney but I have no idea how close his version is to this one. (I like the little "modal" touch in the second part!) O'Neill gives no attribution for this piece and says nothing about it in either *Irish Minstrels and Musicians* or *Irish Folk Music*.