

GARTAN MOTHER'S LULLABY

Ulster traditional

6th string = D

tenderly (mm=86)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a 6-string guitar, with the 6th string tuned to D. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The tempo is marked as *tenderly* with a metronome marking of mm=86. The piece concludes with a *ritardando* and a *ritardando* marking, with a final tempo of 72 (slower). The notation includes various chords, single notes, and rests, with some notes marked with a fermata.

This hauntingly beautiful modal song was collected in Co. Donegal by musicologist Herbert Hughes, who included it in his collection *Irish Country Songs* (1909). The version I have used is that recorded in the 1960's by harpist Mary O'Hara.

The well-known folklorist Joseph Campbell composed lyrics in English (beginning "Sleep o babe for the red bee hums / The silent twilight's fall") to the melody. I have not seen any reference to the existence of original Gaelic lyrics to this song.