

OLD TRUAGH

traditional harp tune

The musical score for "Old Truagh" is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It begins with a tempo marking of *mm* ~ 88 and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef, featuring harp-style chords. The piece includes repeat signs with first and second endings. The first ending is marked with a '1' and the second ending with a '2'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

One of the many harp tunes collected by Bunting (as "Old Truigha") at the 1792 Belfast harpers' meeting. Unfortunately he provides no further information about its origin. The word "Truagh" (in several spellings), meaning a division of land, appears in many Irish place names. Lyrics beginning with the words "Arise from thy slumbers, oh, fairest of maids!" were composed to the tune by a Miss Balfour. I have never heard either the tune or the song performed (although harpist Anne Haymann says that the tune was at one time very popular).