

The PRETTY GIRL MILKING HER COW

traditional harp tune

Gracefully (mm ~ 80)

4

8

12

16

20

24

28

mf

p

ff

mp

cresc

slower (~ 66)

Another lovely harp tune collected by Bunting at the 1792 harpers' meeting. It exemplifies a genre known as "milkmaid songs", during a discussion of which the following interesting point is made by Chief O'Neill (who after all grew up on a farm in West Cork and should therefore know whereof he speaks):

"Without assuming that all cattle are influenced by music, we are certain that some are keenly alive to its attractions, and will even follow it, with evident delight, until restrained by the limits of their enclosure. "

There are several sets of unexceptional lyrics that have been set to this melody, but I am not aware of any that could be considered the "original" (which would be in Gaelic in any case).

