

# FAIR HILLS of EIRE O!

Donncha Rua Mac Con Mara  
(1715-1810)

*mm ~ 72*

*mf*

3

6

9

*f* *mp*

11

*f* *mf*

## FAIR HILLS of EIRE O!

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Fair Hills of Eire O!'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The first system starts at measure 13 and ends at measure 15. The second system starts at measure 16 and ends at measure 19. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first system has a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) at the beginning and *mp* (mezzo-piano) at the end. The second system has a dynamic marking of *mp* at the beginning and *p* (piano) at the end. The tempo marking *molto rit.* (molto ritardando) is placed below the second system. There are first and second endings indicated by bracketed lines above the staves.

*Take a blessing from my heart to the land of my birth  
And the fair hills of Eire O!*

From the *Songs of the Irish* collection. The song is a lovely reminiscence of Ireland as seen through the eyes of a poet far away from his native land. As Donal O Sullivan points out, the attribution of the song to the 18th Century Munster poet Donncha Rua Mac Con Mara (“Red-Haired Dennis MacNamara”) is problematic; the actual composer may have been one Fitzgerald, a soldier who fought for the French army, with MacNamara revising and adding to the earlier song.

The Gaelic words of this song were translated into English by the Dublin poet James Clarence Mangan (1803-1849).