

The BLACKBIRD and the HEN

O'Neill collection

mm ~ 80

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. It begins with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking. The piece is divided into two main sections. The first section, starting at measure 1, contains measures 1 through 14. It features a series of eighth-note patterns and rests, with a repeat sign at measure 8. The second section, starting at measure 15, contains measures 15 through 18. It continues the melodic development with eighth-note patterns and concludes with a final cadence. The score includes first and second endings for both sections, indicated by bracketed numbers 1 and 2. The first ending of the first section leads back to the beginning, while the second ending leads to the start of the second section. The first ending of the second section leads to the final cadence, and the second ending leads back to the beginning of the second section.

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*.