

DERRY AIR

Ulster traditional

mm = 72

The musical score for 'Derry Air' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as *mm = 72*. The score is arranged in a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass line is in the bass clef. The piece begins with a piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody is characterized by a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and some longer notes with slurs. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence in the bass clef.

6

11

16

21

26

31

mp

Perhaps the most familiar piece of music in this collection because of its use as the melody for "Danny Boy" - love it or hate it, the quintessential "Irish" ballad (with words by an English actor named Fred Weatherly, who evidently never set foot in Ireland).

The original melody was collected by a Miss Jane Ross from an itinerant musician in the region of Limavady in County Derry sometime in the middle of the 19th Century. Regardless of the abuse it has had to endure over the years (nothing quite matches the experience of listening to a pub singer approaching the high note with the sure and certain knowledge that he/she will strike at it and fall off backwards), the melody remains unparalleled for its beauty and serenity.

