

GIVE ME YOUR HAND

(Tabhair Dhom do Lamh)

Rory Dall O Cathan (1606-1653)

Andante (~ 112)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. The tempo is marked *Andante* (~ 112). The score consists of seven staves of music, with measure numbers 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, and 31 indicated at the beginning of their respective staves. The first staff begins with a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking. The melody is characterized by a mix of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed together, and is supported by a simple harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a final chord on the seventh staff.

36

41

46

51

56 *mp* *slower (~ 80)* *ff*

A composition of the harper Ruairi Dall O Cathain (Blind Rory O Kane), a scion of the O Cahan clan of Ulster and as such a nobleman in his own right. Though born in Ireland in 1646, Rory spent much of his career in Scotland as the court harper of the Laird of Macleod.

The story is told that a certain Lady Eglinton insulted Rory by addressing him in a manner more appropriate to a servant than to a member of the nobility. Upon discovering her error, the lady apologized, and to demonstrate that there were no hard feelings, Rory composed this lovely tune in the lady's honor. The fact that couples are still waltzing to the tune 350 years or so after its creation should be a source of great delight to the shades of Rory Dall and Lady Eglinton! (O'Neill twice gives Rory's date of death as 1653 - unlikely given his birth date of 1646!)