GIVE ME YOUR HAND

Tabhair Dhom do Lamh

Ruairi Dall O Cathain (1646 - ?)



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A composition of the harper Ruairi Dall O Cathain (Blind Rory O Kane, c.1570 - c.1650), a scion of the O Cahan clan of Ulster and as such a nobleman in his own right. Though born in Ireland, 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!